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DEPEND FRIDAY 26 APRIL 1996

PUBLISHED IN SCOTLAND

INSIDE TODAY'S SECTION TWO

No pain, no gain: the art masochists

page motoring section 20 years of the GTi, the original hot hatchback



VAT man to pay back £5 billion

DIANE COYLE

Big High Street chains and department stores are looking forward to a £5bn windfall af-ter a landmark court ruling yesterday which threatens the Government's tax-cutting plans.

News of the bonanza follows an Appeal Court ruling that the Customs and Excise had been wrong in charging value-added tax on "interest-free" credit deals since the tax was introduced in 1973.

But the ruling could put Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's plans to cut taxes in the next Budget at risk. The estimated 5bn in tax and interest the Government would have to repay in the worst case is the equivalent of 2.5p off the basic

DAVID MCKITTRICK and

The IRA attempt to explode a

large bomb under Hammer-

smith bridge is being seen by in-

final confirmation that terror-

ist have given up on the Irish

next British general election.

All the signs are that the re-

iblican analysis is that the Ma-

r government, with its slender

ajority in the Commons has

her the inclination nor the

igth to make any bold

explor d at Hammersmith

Bridge in Wednesday night

contained more than 30lbs of

high explosive, making it the

higgest high explosive bomb

planted in Britain, Scotland

It underlined the republican

determination to persue the

Yard said.

bomb which partially

on Ireland.

rate of income tax. It could also lose an additional several hundred million pounds a year from its expected revenues.

a national treasure

Companies that could benefit from the ruling include Dixons and Currys leading department stores, such as the John Lewis Partnership; and the major car dealers, such as Reg Vardy and Cowie Group.

Although the Treasury said last night that the figure of £5bn was "wildly exaggerated" the blow to the public finances comes at a time when there is already a serious shortfall in VAT revenues, which currently stand at about £43bn a year. In the financial year just ended they were nearly £6bn lower than the Treasury had estimated little over a year ago, and £750m below the estimate

IRA bomb signals

no peace before

general election

in last November's Budget. The new gap in the revenues

also comes on top of an extra £300m the Government will have to pay in compensation for the BSE scare. Moreover, another case concerning VAT on cars shortly to come before the courts could cost the Customs and Excise as much as £25bn. City experts last night said the

Government's finances were looking increasingly precarious. "If this ruling is upheld, to cut taxes the Chancellor would have to argue that a one-off impact would have no implications for ongoing tax plans," said Adam Cole at brokers James

Leading Eurosceptic Tory MP Bill Cash said: "If it does mean a multi-billion pound pay-back, the impact on our



budgetwould be a substantial setback to our chances of winning the election with tax

The only silver lining for the far more damaging, case Cus-Government is that shops will be able to pass on the benefits of the ruling to their customers, helping reduce prices. The types of goods often sold with interest-free credit account for 10 per cent of the retail price index, so lifting VAT on the loans would reduce inflation a little.

The decision by Lords Justices Stuart-Smith and Hutchison reverses earlier VAT services can be reclaimed under Commission and High Court rulings. VAT experts described the decision as a significant defeat for the Customs, It follows last week's loss in a VAT tribunal case brought by BT over VAT paid on the delivery charges for company cars - a decision against which Customs is appealing in the High Court. in a further, and potentially

toms is litigation brought in the name of former drinks company Allied-Lyons, Peter Jenkins, VAT specialist with accountants Ernst & Young, which advised BT, said that Allied-Lyons was challenging a Customs "blocking order" to prevent British companies reclaiming VAT on their cars in the way that the tax on other goods and

the European VAT directive. If it is successful, the cost to Customs could be £15bn to £25bn. There does seem to be a bad run of cases for Customs," he યતીતાની. Customs and Excise has been given leave to appeal to the House of Lords against the ruling and says it will vigorously

to meet the estimated £6m claim from the furniture company which brought the test case before the outcome of the House of Lords hearing is However, advisers are sug-gesting that companies should

be preparing to make claims for repayment. How much they can seek will depend on how far back their records stretch. But Mr Jenkins suggested that the records need not be too detailed, so long as they contained evidence of sales and financing arrangements.

The Kingsway Furniture

Group, parent to Primback. the liquidated company at the centre of the case that came to the High Court in July 1994, es-

noints out that it will only have to claim back about £6m. Though the size of repayments will depend on the amount of "interest-free" credit business, the extensive use of such deals to increase sales during the recession means that all kinds of companies will be able to bring claims if the Customs and Excise fails in its appeal.

Clare Mainprice, of Mainprice and Co, the firm that represented Primback, said: "This is going to mean refunds, with interest, for many large and small companies. The major high street stores have used interest-free credit deals as a major selling tool during the recession. Because the big chains have done it, small retailers have had no choice but to do the same in order to com-

contest the finding. It also timates it could be in a position New crackdown Victory for love as murder charge is quashed on paedophiles

> NICHOLAS TIMMINS and REBECCA FOWLER

The Government is drawing up plans to track convicted naedonhiles and set up a register for care workers looking after children in a new crackdown on child abuse.

The proposals aim to prevent convicted paedophiles from seeking work with children and will introduce tougher vetting for all staff who care for young people. The moves follow a recent campaign by the Independeru calling on the Governmen to act to prevent the scandal of abuse in children's homes.

John Bowis, Health minister, said yesterday that the propos-als would be published shortly. He promised "constructive" consultation on the idea of creating a General Social Services Council to enforce standards. Social workers and others working with vulnerable children and adults would have to register with the council which would have the power to strike off those who abused their position.

Public concern over the issue has been growing after the scan-



dal in Clwvd, the massive police investigation into sex abuse in homes in Cheshire, and the Independent's recent campaign which Tad Kubisa, the president of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said yesterday had been "very helpful".

The Home Office will shortly publish a consultation paper which will include proposals to make it a criminal offence for child sex offenders to change address without notifying the police, and to prohibit them from seeking work with children.

Ministers have been under mounting pressure for failing to act after proposals which they commissioned on how to set up a social services council have been with the Department of Health since last summer.

tion's spring conference in TURN TO PAGE 2



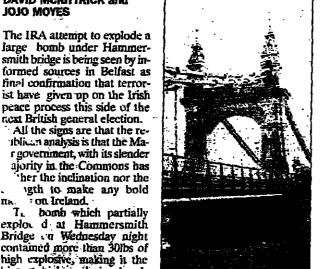
yesterday after his convictions of killing her parents were quashed Photograph: Martin

post-ceaseline campaign with vigour, rather than plant small to begin on 10 June. devices as reminders of their The Hammersmith bomb is presence. No one in the republican camp views the election of a new

Labour government as a panacca since they regard pre-An indication of republican vious Labour administrations as having had a Unionist tinge. But thinking was given by Martin McGuinness, a key figure in the sense is that the present sit-uation is without the potential

Republicans are also hopeful that the pest Dublin general election will see the removal from government of the present Loiseach, John Bruton, whom they regard as hostile to republicanism. Most would wish to see the return to power of the Fianna Fall party, which they consider to have made a valu-In London, anti-terrorist poable contribution to the peace

The logic of this is that nonew ceasefire is to be expected der the west London bridge.



IRA target: Hammersmith bridge in west London

to allow Sinn Fein entry into the inter-party talks which are due

seen as confirming that republicans are intent on stepping up their violence, particualrly in

Sinn Fein when he said this week?" I don't believe that John Major is the British prime min-ister who will move decisively to resolve this conflict. I think that in reality we're actually sitting here hoping that the quicker there's a British general election the better, so that we can then move on and deal with whoever else comes into pow-

lice issued an urgent call for vigilance after the Hammersmith

The homb was clearly an attempt at an IRA "spectacular" by staging an attack on a highprofile target which would cause major damage and widespread truffic disruption. It came on the 80th anniversary of the Easter Rising against

British rule in Ireland in Dublin on 24 April, 1916, a kev date i the Irish republican calendar. Scotland Yard said there was

no doubt that the bomb, made up of two devices thought to contain Semtex, was designed to kill, cause serious injury and major structural damage. Although there were two small explosions, the bomb did not detonate. It is thought the detonator may have gone off but failed to set off the main device.

A Yard spokeswoman said yesterday that the devices were each contained in a briefcasesized box. They were being examined by forensic experts. The devices are believed to have contained upwards of 30lbs of high explosive. This is probably the biggest amount of high explosive ever to be placed

on the mainland," she said. Larger devices have been exploded on the mainland, such as those in Docklands in February and at Bishopsgate in 1993, but they were constructcd from fertiliser-based explo-sives. Semtex is the most powerful explosive in the IRA

armoury. The spokeswoman said: "These devices would have caused a very large explosion and there's no doubt that they were made to kill, cause injury and major structural damage to Hammersmith Bridge as well as enormous disruption to London

and its community. In March, 1939, an attempt was made to destroy the bridge using a bomb planted in a suit-



Jonathan Jones with his girlfriend Cheryl Toose outside the High Court in London

IN BRIEF Teacher strike over disruptive boy lifted

Teachers lifted a threatened strike overa disruptive 13 year old boy last night after a last-minute deal was struck to keep him out of lessons. Staff at Glaisdale school in Nottingham had been due to stop work indefinitely from today in protest at the excluded boy's return to school.

Today's weather Bright and warm in southern and central regions. Cloudy in northest regions and in Scot-Section Two, page 25:



Parents warned of peanut risk to children

LIZ HUNT

Parents were warned yesterday not to give very young children eanuis or other nuts as new reearch revealed that many were developing potentially life-threatening allergies.

The allergies are becoming more common as nuts are used as "hidden" ingredients in a growing range of everyday foods. Allergy specialists are calling for detailed product labelling of all foods known to contain even migute amounts of eannts or nivis. 🗼 🕆

The findings also highlight. the danger of giving peanut but-ter to babies. More than a third of the nut allergy cases report-ed occurred in children under gravy mixes, oriental dishes.

BLISINESS 17-21 COMMENT 14, 15 CROSSWORD 26 GAZETTE16

TEADING ARTICLES 14 LETTERS 14' NEWS ANALYSIS 15'

the spread in the first 12 months

But doctors say milk from mothers who eat peanuts also poses a greater risk of the child developing an allergy, and call for more research into baby milks and infant foods which contain peanut oils to determine if they can trigger an allergy.

Allergy specialists say that avoidance of peanuts/nuts by young children is the only safeguard, particularly by those with other allergies such as hayfever, asthma, and eczema who are at greater risk.

However, they warn that avoidance is difficult to achieve as outs are a "hidden" ingredient in many foods, including cetwo, most of whom were given pastries, sweets and ice-creams.



Deaths in healthy young peo-ple from peanut/nut allergy are rare but becoming more frequent. Six patients died of peamut allergy in 1993.

section

In one of the most detailed investigations of peanut/nut al-lergies to date, Dr Pamela Ewan from Addenbrooke's Hospital NHS Trust in Cambridge, studied 62 cases of peanut/nut allergy in patients at the Allergy Clinic over one year.

According to a report in to-morrow's British Medical Journal. 23 patients were aged between 11 months and five years, and 52 in all were under the age of 18. The 10 adults were aged between 19-32, Dr Ewan found that peanuts

were the most common cause of allergy (47), followed by Brazil nut (18), almond (14), and hazelnut (13). (Some patients showed multiple nut allergies.) Peanuts accounted for all allergies in children sensitised in the first year of life and for in cases there.

ARTS 6.7 CLASSICAL MUSIC 16-18 LIVING 4.5

82 per cent of allergies in children by the third year of life. The most common symptom of allergy was swelling of the airways, face, and lining of the mouth, and in fatal cases, asphyxia was the cause due to elling in the throat.

Peanuts are the leading cause of food allergy in the United States and, together with other nuts, are probably the leading cause of fatal and near fatal shock (anaphylaxis) reac-

tions induced by food. Peanuts are more popular there than in the UK, and the average American consumes 11lb a year. But the growing range of peanut products, and peanuts as an ingredient in convenience and junk foods, is believed to be behind the surge

ON THE ROAD 19-24 RADIO 26 TELEVISION 27, WEATHER 25 ALL ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS ARE IN 24SEVEN

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TWO DETUJARIES 16 SHARES 26 SPORT 23-26 UNIT TRUSTS 21

Mr Bowis told the associa-

Labour

But once a year or so the leash is loosened, and the Government indulges its back-benchers - and indeed cabinet ministers – by allowing them a "free vote". Which means that they are permitted - without of privileges or expulsion from

PAUL FIELD AND

KATHERINE BUTLER

Farmers and meat traders ves-

terday won permission in the High Court to challenge the le-

gality of the European Union

worldwide export ban on British

should be referred to the Eu-

ropean Court of Justice - the

only forum that can decide on

the validity of the ban - after he

has certified a question of law

next Friday.
The National Farmers

Union formally won permission

to seek a judicial review of Ministry of Agriculture and

HM Customs and Excise re-

fusals to issue health certificates

for live animals destined for ex-

port and the decision to with-

draw certificates required for

the export of the meat of bovine

animals slaughtered in the UK.

a European Court of Justice rul-

ing that the total ban on beef ex-

ports is a misuse of EU power.

manifestly a case which should

European Court at the earliest

expedient moment."

Mr Justice Turner said: "It is

However, in effect, the ruling is a vehicle for Britain to seek

A judge ordered the case

terial post - to vote the way their conscience (or sense of political self-preservation) dictates. The Divorce Bill on Wednes-

day night was such an occasion. Other recent free votes have been over capital punishment. Sunday trading and abortion rights. These are "matters of conscience, where (so the legend runs) it would somehow be indecent to coerce members to vote against their deeply felt

And they are odd bedfellows. I can see why the question of whether the state has the right fear of excommunication, loss to take life is a matter which causes real personal anguish.

Farmers win

right to fight

EU beef ban

counts and we cannot expect to

be heard there in a matter of

weeks," he said. "It is clear the

Government understands our

position. We are taking it very

seriously. We mean business.

If the legal action succeeds.

claims for damages for heavy

losses in the meat trade are like-

ly to follow. The court heard

how in 1995 the UK had ex-

ported beef and beef products

worth £520m to other EU

member states and the rest of

Trade Association welcomed

the news but warned that even

if the ban is reversed it could

come too late for exporters. The

organisation is protesting at

the lack of Government assis-

tance following the loss of their world market in the wake of the

A spokesman said: "All the le-

gal steps that have been taken

are supported by the exporters.

However the reality is that un-

less action is taken by the Gov-

ernment then we are still facing

an irreversible collapse of the

However, EU officials said

ernment's plans to slaughter 42

000 cattle could lead to an eas-

BSE crisis.

receive consideration by the last night that while the Gov-

NFU director of policy, lan ing of the trade ban next week,

The International Meat

Most of the time the collection that meaningless junior minis- But the length of the coolingoff period for divorce cases? Are there really groups of Britons who shout, "give us eighteen months, or give us death!"? (Aside from Anne Widde-

combe, that is).

And why is this allowance for conscience so selective? Will those of us embracing shamanism be given free votes on transport policy, so as to protect the spirits of trees, rocks and pools from the road-building programme? Is not the question of say, alleviating poverty a matter of conscience"?

In the case of the Divorce Bill the suspicion has been all along that the Government - taken

government was the first to ban British beef, suggested

some easing of the boycott

might be possible but appeared

to rule out any early return to

hour under pressure from the European Commission, the lat-

est plans, costed at £84 million,

would cut the incidence of BSE

by between 15 and 30 per cent, the Government claims, but

will not be implemented unless

the EU ban is lifted, Mr Hogg

warned the Commission in an

accompanying letter.
Officially, the Commission

welcomed submission of the

plan as a step in the right di-

rection but privately officials said it was "minimal" and

doubted it could do more than

restore British exports of gela-

embryos and semen. They also

expressed surprise that the plan

was presented in the form of a

discussion paper rather than a

formal proposal and that lifting

of the ban was being demand-

ed by Britain as a quid pro quo. Officials from the Ministry of

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

are expected in Brussels today

to supply clarification and de-

tail sought by EU agriculture ex-

perts, who are preparing

tine, tallow and perhaps bovine

Produced at the eleventh

normal trade.



DAVID A A RONOVITCH

aback by the scale of opposition to its proposals on its own benches - agreed to a free vote, calculating that Opposition MPs would ensure that it passed unamended. But on Wednesday night they didn't.

So when the Prime Minister arrived for Question Time yes-

up. Dame Jill Knight (a keen eighteen monther) tried to make it up to him. In a soothing voice she praised his stance another example of the Govon landmines and urged him to use "his considerable influence to achieve a worldwide ban". He thanked her in hollow tones, perhaps wondering why Dame Jill thought he could talk the the government's very own Chinese Red Army out of using landmines, but not persuade the

Lord Chancellor. Over the divorce fiasco itself he had only one strategy open to him - The Good Loser. Which ran roughly thus: great debate; finest traditions of the

terday he looked weary and fed House; best side won: no hard feelings. This England soccer manager approach cut no ice with Killer Blair. It was yet ernment's feeble, faltering, incompetent, humiliating, divided, decaying and generally not very good state. Cabinet members voting against one of

measures. The shame!
"Aha", said Major, would Home Secretary to support the Mr Blair not allow cabinet ministers to exercise a free vote, then? This was "the new, autocratic Labour party. If someone strays a signed statement of retraction is put out in their names the same day". Labour

bottoms on benches behind the Great Leader shuffled uncomfortably. It was a palpable hit. But it was something else that worried me. As some Conser-

vatives noisily pointed out, the Labour leader and many of his colleagues had failed to register any vote at all on the lost amendment. "Now this is a novel constitutional proposition", rejoined Blair, "that I should turn out to help save the Government from its own cabinet members!" Yes, Tony, nice party political point. But who then is to save the rest of us from the peculiar consciences of the Moral Minority? We do not get free votes.

COLIN BROWN

Sir Teddy Taylor and leading Euro-sceptic Tory MPs have privately won assumnces that they will not be challenged ? the general election by candidates from Sir James Gold-

The informal deal, agreed in he demands for the Tory party to do a deal over a referen-dum in spite of efforts by John

John Redwood, the champion of the Euro-sceptic right, who met Sir James on Wednesday, is seeking a compromise with Sir James by pressing the Government to make a commitment to renegotiate the Treaty of Rome, underpinning the European Union, as part of its demands for reform of the common fisheries policy, action against the ban on beef exports. and the European Court of

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, yesterday threw his weight behind the Prime Minister's rejection of overtures to Sir James, and attacked Fleet Street editors as "way out Eurosceptics" for a campaign of criticism of the Government's "drift" on European policy. The Chancellor warned MPs and editors they were playing a "dangerous" game by courting the

Mr Clarke said Sir James had 'maverick" views on crucial issues such as trade, and derided the demand for a Euro poll. Common sense is that it is in our economic and political interest to be one of the great Furopean powers," Mr Clarke

tinued yesterday as Euro-sceptic Tory MPs privately criticised

Mr Major's speech to the Institute of Directors which attacked Sir James, without naming him, as living in "cloud cuckoo land" by calling for a referendum on Britain's withdrawal from the EU.

tougher action against the ban on exports of British beef.

Chief Political Correspondent

mith's Referendum Party.

correspondence, will reopen Major to rule it out.

About 30 Tory Euro-sceptics who saw the Chief Whip, Sir Alistair Goodlad, on Tuesday, criticised the apparent vaccilation of the Government over Europe and the failure to take

Sir James in election promise to Tory MPs

financier's opinions.

they would not work."

The unrest over Europe con-

said on BBC radio. The Chancellor also rejected growing Euro-sceptic pressure or a commitment to renegotiate the Treaty of Rome, "Some of them openly talk about amending the Treaty of Rome ... and about entering into relationships with Europe which no-one else would agree with for the very simple reason that

Gardiner, warned that the case it will not secure its scrapping. recommendations for Monwas unlikely to reach court for The French agriculture minseveral months. "Every day ister, Philippe Vasseur, whose in Luxembourg. Pilgrims' marker: St Mary Aldermary, off Bow Lane, central London, one of 30 churches by Sir Christopher Wren which form part of a walk organised by Friends of City Churches. The walk will visit all the city's churches CJD death in France puts New action over abusers 'mad cow' link in doubt

The death of a Frenchman from a new strain of Creuztfeldt-Jakob Disease throws into doubt the causal link with socalled mad cow disease, re-

searchers said yesterday. The 26-year-old mechanic from Lyon showed symptoms and physical changes strikingly similar to those found in 10 British victims of an apparently new strain of the disease. It was these 10 cases that led

experts to accept that BSE, or mad cow disease, had probably been transmitted to humans through infected beef. CJD, the human equivalent of BSE, is one of a family of

spongiform encephalopathy dis-eases which leave the brain riddled with holes. The 10 cases which sparked

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young, displayed out of the ordinary symptoms, and suffered distinctive physical changes in the brain. Taking account of the disease's incubation period, it was

the panic were all unusually

likely they were infected at a time in the 1980s when large amounts of beef containing BSE were being eaten in Britain. But now the death of the

the UK - has placed a question mark over assumptions about a link between BSE and CJD. The case was investigated by a team led by Professor Nico-

las Kopp, from the Pierre

Werthaimer hospital in Lyon. In a letter published in the Lancet medical journal they

noted that the man had no contact with cattle, no family history that might have made him vulnerable to CJD, and had travelled abroad only once in 1990 to the south of Spain.

Unlike Britain, France did not have the high prevalence of BSE which might support the theory of a link with humans. Only 16 French cases of BSE had been reported.

Frenchman – the first known victim of the new strain outside the UK – has placed a question the possible causal relationship between bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and the new CJD variant...If further similar cases occur in countries with a low BSE prevalence. the epidemiological argument for a link between BSE and

CJD might be weakened."

FROM PAGE 1

Cambridge that the Home Office paper will shortly "canvass the full range of measures which could improve public protection against sex offenders, including additional supervision of offenders following their release from custody".

Before the summer Parliamentary recess he will also publish a consultation document on ethical standards in social services and ways of enforcing them which will include the option of creating a "statutory eth-ical council" similar to the General Medical Council and the UKCC, the bodies which regulate doctors and nurses.

In addition, proposals to improve the DoH's much criticised index of known or suspected cisions by the UKCC to restore child abusers will finally be convicted rapists to the register.

published - an exercise Mr Bowis initiated last August. He stopped short of a full commitment to introduce a

General Social Services Council, but said he was well aware of the growing support for the idea, despite some practical difficulties. These include the numbers who might have to be covered - up to 1 million; the difficulty of registering unqualified staff; and the fact the GMC and UKCC have "never found it easy" to spot in advance those unsuitable to work with vulnerable children and adults. The two regulatory bodies have also not invariably seen it as reasonable to permanently bar those who they strike off. Mr Bowis pointed out - a reference to recent de-

paper would "expose these issues constructively" he said, adding "we recognise that they need tackling".

His speech was described as "very positive" by Mr Kubisa who said that with Labour com-

Nonetheless, the consultation

mitted in principle to introducing a regulatory council, "we are on the road at last, and it looks now as though we will get there". There remained important nuts and bolts issues to resolve,

he said, "but we are moving in the right direction". He also welcomed the Home Office consultation paper and moves to strengthen the health department's index. In the conflict between an individual's rights and the need to protect children, the former had too often "got in the way" of the latter, he said.

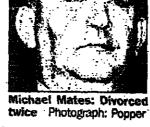
period, only five members of the Shadow Cabinet voted, and all for the one-year period. They were Clare Short, Donald Dewar, George Robertson, Harriet Harman, Derek Foster and George Robertson.

voting as they wished to." In the crucial vote on the duration of the cooling-off

minister after affair with con-

Toby Jessel: divorced Angela Knight: divorced 1 child Michael Mates: divorced twice, first after 21 years, 5 children Andrew Mitchell: whose father Sir David Mitchell MP is diRichard Spring: divorced after 14 years, 2 children Sir Maicolm Thornton: divorced Gary Waller: admitted child with Commons secretary Nigel Waterson: divorced John Wilkinson: divorced after 18 years, 1 child Tim Yeo: resigned as minister after fathering child with a Tory councillor Labour MPs included:

Denzil Davies: divorced, 2 chil-



Mr Blair supported the Bill against the amendment seeking to maintain fault, but did not vote in subsequent divisions. Several Cabinet ministers supported Mr Major in the lobbies, including Kenneth Clarke, William Waldegrave, Sir George Young, and Virginia Bottomley.

Lord Mackay insisted that the vote did not amount to a "rebellion, although those voting against his plan included the Social Security Secretary, Peter Lilley, the Health Secretary. Stephen Dorrell and the Welsh Secretary, William Hague.

"I think it's a most important matter that this is seen as a free vote judgment for individuals,"

IN BRIEF Woman, 25, quizzed

over baby in dunes Detectives were last night questioning a 25-year-old woman about the death of a new-born baby boy whose body was found in sand dunes. The woman came forward after it was reported that the baby had been found near the north

promenade at St Anne's, near Blackpool Lancashire Police launched a murder inquiry after the body was discovered at 8pm on Wednesday, wrapped in pink towels and a copy of the local evening paper. A post-mortem examination confirmed the baby was born alive, but died just hours later. A woman, driving a white Toyota Supra, was seen "carrying something" at the spot earlier, said solice.

Army defeated

Ministry of Defence proposals for heavy weapons training in the heart of a national park have been turned down by councillors. Northumberland County's policy and resources committee decided the £25m project to operate AS90 guns and multi-launch rocket systems in the Otterburn training area would devastate the environ-ment. The Army may seek a public inquiry.

Mast imperfect

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber has lost his battle to prevent a radio mast being put up on land owned by his neighbour, the Earl of Caernaryon. The battle between the aristocrat and the composer broke out after Vodafone applied to put the 12-metre-high radio mast at Beacon Hill, near Newbury, Berks, But Basingstoke and Deane borough council backed the plan.

'Dead' widow home

A widow who was pronounced dead by a doctor has left hospital. A bearse had arrived to collect the body of Maureen Jones, 59, from her home in Humberside on 17 April when a policeman saw one of her legs twitch. She was in a deep diabetic coma and legal action is now being considered.

Open and shut case

A security guard was so upset at losing his home in a divorce settlement that he walked away with the front door in the middle of the night, a court heard. Peter Jones, 45. admitted threatening behaviour and criminal damage to a phone line. He was fined £100 and ordered to pay £40 prosecution costs by magistrates at Swansea. West Glamorgan. He said later: "I thought I should be entitled to take the door away - I

did fit it after all."

A bird's nest stuck in a chimney caused the deaths of newly-weds at their honeymoon cottage, an inquest heard. Howard Davidson, 50, and his wife Linda, 45. of Wakefield, Yorkshire, were found dead with their pet dog from carbon monoxide poisoning in the holiday home near Camborne, Cornwall, The inquest at Heiston recorded ver-

Rave scrapped

dicts of accidental death.

Britain's largest overnight rave party, due to have been held at Ot Moor in Oxfordshire over the May bank holiday has been cancelled following protests by police and local villagers, 25,000 young people were set to attend. London cab prices

Taxi fares in London will rise rise by about 4.59 per cent on average from Saturday. The new tariff will incorporate a minimum charge of £1.40 including a hire charge of £1 for the first 513 metres or 111 seconds, transport minister, Steven Norris, said.

Abuse report

Buckinghamshire County Council has asked us to point out (Independent, Tuesday 23 April) that alleged abuse of mentally handicapped people in a private home in Bucking-hamshire did not involve chil-dren or a children ham company dren or a children's home. Two people have been charged and await trial. Thames Valley Po-lice and the council's social services department have completed a separate investigation into allegations about a children's home and have found no evidence to support them.

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Ministers defy Tory pressure to ditch divorce Bill DONALD MACINTYRE

Political Editor

Ministers vesterday insisted the divorce reform Bill would continue through the Commons in the face of mounting pressure from senior Tory backbenchers to ditch it.

Downing Street was adamant the Bill would go ahead, despite the Government's dependence on Labour to ensure it becomes law. But last night Sir Marcus Fox, the chairman of the 1922 Committee said Lord Mackay should put the Bill "on

the back-burner." Despite the opposition in a free vote of more than 100 Tory MPs to the removal of fault from divorce and a successful amendment forcing the Gov-ernment to extend the required cooling-off period before divorce from one year to 18 months, Downing Street insist-

ed the Bill would go ahead. While the Bill has cleared a crucial hurdle, it still faces difficulties during the committee stage, with Labour seeking to secure the support of Tory

How they voted

tend the waiting period to 18 Michael Howard: wife dworced months included: Robert Hughes: resigned as

Michael Brown: the only openly gay Tory MP David Faber: divorced Sir Peter Fry: divorced after 26. years, 2 children

dissidents for an amendment

Paul Boateng, Labour's legal

affairs spokesman, warned his

party may withdraw support at

the third reading, if "reconcil-

iation counselling" mechanisms

attack during and after furious

exchanges between Tony Blair.

But Labour itself came under

to build new provisions for

marriage guidance.

are not strengthened.

Roger Gale: twice divorced Sir George Gardiner: divorced Sir John Hannam: divorced after 26 years, 2 children Warren Hawksley: divorced, 2

the Labour leader, and John amendment. He said the vote

vorced from his mother Sir Nicholas Scott: divorced after 12 years, 3 children

Major in the Commons. There

were Tory taunts that Labour

had been "opportunistic" in seizing on the Government's defeal on Wednesday, despite the fact that Labour supports the Bill's principles. Mr Blair taunted Mr Major with the fact that four Cabinet ministers, led by Michael

Howard the Home Secretary.

had voted for the 18-month

showed "the advanced state of decay the Government is in". Mr Major declared: "If you think it is right to have a free

vote on a matter of conscience. do you equally think it is right that that should be excluded from those members of any administration who feel strongly on these matters? If you do. then I think you have a very strange view of what forms a matter of conscience.

Mr Blair was accused of posing a "severe threat to democby the Liberal Democrat. Simon Hughes. He said: "The principle we've always acted on votes in this House is that every vote is a free vote but some have

a party line applied to them. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the House have been

completely and unjustly castigated both by the press and the Leader of the Labour Party for

Mackay defends Bill, page 15

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The British r favourite endir er. I married h Wynne-Jones. The latest tig shops reveal the soutselling In

ion's bookshop London, reports Cooper's lates sionata, have bebook came ou Sense and Sens and Prejudice to 400 copies betw cent weeks

Priests puzzle over double burial

ANDREW BROWN
Religion Correspondent

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Mast imperfect

Two parishes in a rural English diocese are facing a tricky theological and legal problem; how can a woman be buried in two place at once?

To spare the feelings of the family involved, the parishes wish to remain anonymous, but the priests involved were approached by two sisters, whose mother had recently died and been cremated with a funeral service. Both sisters, who live some distance apart, wished to be able easily to visit their mother's ashes. After some thought, they concluded that the best way to manage this was to have half the ashes buried in each church.

The two priests agreed, and the services will be held simultaneously on Saturday; but the solution ran into a host of legal and theological difficulties when one of the priests asked for advice on the Internet as to what prayers he should use. The resurrection of half a body seemed a tricky proposition.

A round of phone calls to the Church of England's liturgica committee produced confusing results. One member, the Bish-op of Portsmouth, Dr Kenneth Stevenson, said: "In England I don't think she can be divided in half, but that is because of legal issues rather than theological ones. The burial of cremated remains has to be registered and certified ... She could be sprinkled. But sprinkling ashes is quite separate from burial."

There is a service for the burial of Christian ashes: it refers to "the cremated remains". Dr Stevenson suggests that the liturgical solution is to omit the definite article and bury "cremated remains", rather than

"the cremated remains". However, he said, the real problem is theological. A belief in the resurrection of the body is a way of asserting the unity of a person: that human beings are both body and soul. Separating the parts of the body suggests that only the spirit matters, which is not Christian orthodoxy. It can be done: early Christians had to confront the difficulties which arose when a martyr was eaten by several wild beasts. But there is a clear Christian preference for a body

to be kept in one piece.

The Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev Phillip Goodrich, said he was opposed to the idea in principle. He felt the sprinkling of ashes was a form of paganism, and not a Christian rite.

I think it should be discouraged because it is really a bit superstitious. It would be better for the ashes to be buried in one nlace and think of the dead as being among the unnumbered multitude of Heaven."

Marriage not clinches. dear reader

The British reading public's favourite ending is "dear reader, I married him", writes Ros

The latest figures from book-shops reveal that Jane Austen is outselling July Cooper. Dillon's bookshop in Gower Street. London, reports 53 copies of Ms Cooper's latest novel, Appassionata, have been sold since the book came out, but Austen's Sense and Sensibility and Pride and Prejudice have sold nearly 400 copies between them in recent weeks.



Daffodil snaps: A man recording the display at the North of England Horticultural Society's four-day Harrogate spring show, which opened yesterday

Photograph: Guzelian

Farmhouse conviction 'unsafe'

Farmhouse killing: Kisses of joy as fiancee wins her fight to

PETER VICTOR

Jonathan Jones was freed yesterday amid dramatic scenes at the Court of Appeal after judges quashed his convictions for murdering the parents of his girlfriend. Cheryl Tooze.

Mr Jones, 37, a businessman, was released after the three appeal judges said they were all "of the clear view" that the convictions for the killings of Harry Tooze, 64, and 67-year-old

wife Megan, were unsafe. Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Mr Justice Dyson and Mr Justice Gage, returned after a Crown submissions to an- courts set him free. clear view that these convictions

shall give on a future occasion. had loved for 12 years. With his

have boyfriend cleared of 'callous' murder of elderly couple Accordingly the convictions will be quashed and the defendant

will be discharged."
Miss Tooze left the court arm in arm with Mr Jones, near to tears of joy. The couple em-braced and kissed in front of the TV cameras.

She had refused from the first to accept that her lover, Jonathan Jones, had killed her parents. Yesterday, her tenacity was rewarded as she walked Mr Jones, of Orpington, Kent,

nounce: "We are all of the An only child, apart from her mother and father, all she had are unsafe for reasons which we in the world was the man she

arrest and conviction last year, farm, having tea with the couher world collapsed. Harry and Megan Tooze were

each shot once in the back of the head at close range with a shotgun at their farm at Llanharry. mid-Glamorgan in July 1993. Mr Tooze, 64, was shot inside a cowshed. His 67 year old wife had been shot at the farmhouse as she tried to run for her

murder after a 55-day Newport Crown Court trial last April on a 10-2 majority verdict after the prosecution claimed he paid a surprise visit to the six-acre man who sat in the dock and for clothes, car and even took wash-

ple before shooting them to gain a £150,000 inheritance.

Only days after the trial, doubt hovered over the conviction. The presiding judge, Mr Justice Rougier, released his confidential remarks about the trial revealing that he thought the prosecution case had "fallen decidedly flat". Had he been a member of the jury, he said, he "should be conscious of of sig-nificant doubt." He was_disturbed by "the contrast between the total ruthlessness and pitiless determination of whoever

killed Harry and Megan and

four and a half days in the witness box." John Rees QC, representing Mr

Jones, returned to this theme in the Appeal Court: "The shotgun was fired from approximately three feet away. They were, in short, executed," said Mr Rees. The killer was experienced and an accurate shot. Mr Jones had no experience with any firearms.

There was a lack of forensic evnce to link Mr Jones to the killing. The murder at close range would have left the killer covered in blood and brain tissuc. Police examined Mr Jones'

basins apart to try to find evi-dence linking him to the The prosecution, Mr Rees ar-

gued, was hased on "suspicion. speculation and conjecture. Miss Tooze braved considerable personal criticism to stand by Mr Jones, appearing on the BBC television series Modern Times to back the man convicted of murdering her parents. She said at the court: "I am absolutely delighted. It has been a long fight and my fight is not over yet. I have got Jonathan released. My intention is to carry on and find out who killed my narents. My reward of £25,000 still stands and will continue to

Mr Jones was simply: "Delighted to be free. I had never given up hope."

do so.

World Cup ball et bounces back from '66

ADAM SZRETER

In a move that would delight in a move that would dengife every Euro-sceptic, England's World Cup winners of 1966 are asking the Germans: "Can we have our ball back?" With the 30th anniversary of English football's most famous day fast approaching, a frantic search has been launched for the ball with which Geoff Hurst scored a hat-trick when Alf Ramsey's team beat Germany 4-2 in the World Cup final.

According to the Sun newspaper, after exhaustive inquiries by them, the ball was found in the cellar of Jürgen Haller, son of Helmut who was in the German side at Wembley 30 years ago. Apparently Haller Snr. who scored the first goal of the game. snaffled the famous orange ball at the final whistle, stuffed it up his jumper and took it back to Germany before you could say Kenneth Wolstenholme.

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Over the years, whenever Haller has been approached on the subject he has always evaded the issue, hinting that the ball was lost. But after persistent badgering from British journalists, it seems he has finally given in and may even be flying to England to present the ball to Hurst.

"They [journalists] kept pes-tering me," Haller said yester-day. "They have been phoning me for the last three days. They kept saying that the ball be-longed to England. But I told them it belonged to me."

Last night, however, it emerged that the ball may not be in Haller's court after all. Hurst's agent, Dave Davies, is still expecting the ball to be pre-sented next Tuesday at an official 30th anniversary show in Learnington Spa, Warwickshire, by a German from Dusseldorf whom he simply knew as "Wolfgang". His father, Mr Davies said, had apparently bought the ball at an auction in Germany some years ago.

"Everyone's saying they've got the ball, but as far as I'm concerned I'm still expecting to see Davies said, before adding that Hurst could not comment as he had been paid by a certain tabloid newspaper not to do so. We may think it's all over...

Trousers up for auction

pair of skin-tight trousers owned by rock legend Freddie Mercury went under the hammer for £5,520 at auction yes-

terday. The red PVC pants, signed by the former Queen frontman, were snapped up by a buyer acting for trendy London eaterie the Hard Rock Café at Bonhams salerooms, Chelsea, west

London. The Café also also picked up Frank Zappa's 1966 Hagström Sunburst 12-string steel electric guitar for £6,325.

But the biggest disappointment of the day was bidding for The Rolling Stones' mobile recording studio which failed to reach its reserve price of £15,000.

The Leyland Daf 1970 custom-built van was used to record the group's albums Sticky Fingers and Exile on Main Street. However, an interested buyer who missed the auction may now step in.

Ted Owen, entertainments specialist for Bonhams said: "He thought the sale was on tomorrow. He is a private buyer."



retired fruit wholesaler Harry Tooze, 64, and his wife Megan, 67. shocked the close-knit rural area of Llanharry, Mid Glam-organ, in July 1993.

Police found their bodies hidden under bales of hay in a cowshed at their isolated 10acre smallholding Ty-ar-y-Waun (House in the Meadow). Their daughter Cheryl had

raised the alarm when there was no answer to the nightly phone call she made to her parents.
Jonathan Jones arrived by car in the early hours to help the police search and was allowed in-

side the farmhouse. During his trial, defence lawyers argued that it was possible that this was how half a fingerprint came to be found on a

teacup in the kitchen.
Mr Jones maintained that on the day of the murders he was in Orpington looking for office premises to rent for a new business venture with Cheryl Tooze whom he first met in 1983 while studying at the Polytech-

nic of Wales in Treforest. Villagers at Llanharry last to a spot of poaching, but as for night said they believed the cold-blooded murder - no way."

decision to free Mr Jones had put everyone under suspicion again. "The police left no stone unturned. They quizzed every owner of a shotgun more than once ... I'm sure if the killer was local they would have got him. It just convinces me that it was no-one living in the area."

The Toozes' next-door neigh-bour Mrs Lore Milsom-Gabe said: "I just wish it was all over. I've had to live with this for three years now. When police charged Jonathan Jones I wondered if they had caught the right man. Now we are just as confused as ever."

Local pub landlady Jenny Russell, 50, of The Bear, said: Everyone has a pet theory about who committed the murders and how it was done. It has caused a great deal of controversy among regulars.

There are a lot of rogues in the area, but they are lovable rogues. They wouldn't be averse



The victims: Harry Tooze (above), Megan Tooze (below) and the farmhouse (right); Photographs: Huw Evans







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Racist killing: Three walk free from court as relatives of stabbed 18-year-old black student pledge to continue fight for justice.

Anger as murder trial collapses

Home Affairs Correspondent

The distraught parents of Stephen Lawrence, the A-level murdered by a gang of racists. vowed to continue their fight for justice yesterday after their private prosecution of three white men collapsed.

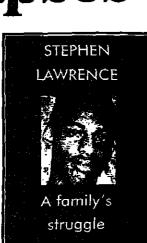
Neville Lawrence, Stephen's father, said afterwards: "I believe in fairness. I don't think what happened today is fair."
Neil Acourt, 20, Luke
Knight, 18, and Gary Dobson, 20, walked free from the Old Bailey after the judge ruled a

witness's evidence inadmissible Michael Mansfield QC, who had brought the private prosecution on behalf the family only the fourth in 130 years said the other material including covert surveillance videos and scientific evidence was not

sufficient to put before a jury. The video, shown at a committal hearing, revealed the defendants wielding knives, uttering extreme racial abuse and fantasising about killing, torturing and mutilating blacks. A police search found seven knives, including a Gurkha, at one of their homes.

The collapse of the case will be seen as a vindication of the Crown Prosecution Service's earlier decision not to pursue the case for lack of evidence.

But Imran Khan, the family's solicitor, rejected that suggestion as too simplistic. He said the Lawrences had been let down by the "entire criminal justice system. He said the initial police investigation had been flawed, the CPS should not have abandoned the case - and the decision to rule out the witness evidence was both "surprising and unfortunate".



become an architect, was 18 when he was attacked as he waited with his friend Duwayne Brooks at a bus stop in Eltham. south London, in April 1993. Mr Mansfield had claimed the three were part of a gang of racists bent on the "desecration of those who were black by injury or possible death".

legal safeguards which pro-

tected anyone from a misiden-tification. "Putting one injustice on top of another does not cure

the first injustice done to the Lawrence family," he said. Mr Justice Curtis praised the

Lawrences for their decision to

drop the case "in the interests

of justice and fairness". He

granted the family their costs

Last night Mr Lawrence, un-

usually alone because his wife

Doreen was too upset, said the

family would continue to search

for Stephen's killers. He added:

"I would like to thank all the

supporters from the last three

out of central funds.

He told the jury: "There can be no question that whoever did this was someone who had a deep felt hatred of black peo-

However, the case foundered when Mr Justice Curtis said the identification of Luke Knight and Neil Acourt by Mr Brooks. was contradictory and contaminated.

The court was told how Mr Brooks had suffered from post traumatic stress after the attack. The judge refused to allow his evidence to be put before the jury ruling that it "would amount to an injustice" to do so.

The judge said: "However horrible the crime and objectionable the motive", it did not allow him to remove or alter the



Killing that put a dignified family on the trail of justice

being black

There have been only three moments when the Lawrence family's strength and quiet reserve have deserted them, writes Heather Mills.

Once when Stephen's father, Neville, broke down in tears as he heard in a court room how his son died violently and pointlessly at the hands of a racist

years, black and white, old and young."
But Azim Hajee, a friend and The second when Stephen's mother, Doreen, allowed hercampaigner, said most people self a celebratory "yes" as two would now be asking "what went wrong". "What is it that men suspected of the killing were sent for trial. Getting the black people have to do, that case to the Old Bailey was a ordinary folk have to do, to get milestone in the family's search for justice. And the third came

as the Old Bailey trial started to crumble. Mrs Lawrence colthird black victim of racist lapsed in tears.

Otherwise through their three year - and subsequently vain - struggle to find their son's killers, through frustrations at police progress, anger at the dropping of the case by the Crown Prosecution Service and dismay as they felt they became

pawn between comanti-racist

groups, they tained a dignified reserve. In the words of Mr Justice Curtis after

had remained "statesmanlike" throughout. Stephen would have been

21 this year - well on the way towards his chosen career as an architect. A bright student he had been due to sit A-levels in major blow - the Crown Pros-English, design and technology ecution Service dropped the and physics - and was expected to sail through them.

Instead aged 18 he happened to be waiting for a bus with a ty and raised allegations that the friend when a gang of racist thugs was on the streets - and he was killed. Murdered be- failed to move swiftly enough,

killings in the area. For his parents, the only solace on which they could seize was the evidence of a couple, leaving church, who had gone to comfort Stephen. Louise Taff, said

"he seemed very peaceful". His friend Duwayne, who had yelled at Stephen to run and ran himself, was

only able to He was waiting give police the barest of defor a bus ... tails. Nevertheless, the hunt murdered for

for the killers

appeared ini-

tially hopeful.

The names of various youths the trial collapsed, "in the in- were given to police and the Duwayne Brooks picked out Neil Acourt and Luke Knight at

identity parades. Both were charged with Stephen's murder. But the following July the Lawrences suffered their first

charges for lack of evidence. The the decision prompted outrage in the black communicase had been mishandled. It was later claimed that police - losing potentially vital foren-

Stephen's family started their own inquiries. Then after the first anniversary of his death, the family had a meeting with Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, who initiated a second investigation. This-inquiry, said the Lawrences, was faultless - it was just a year too late.

More evidence was unearthed , but nothing which would persuade the CPS to launch a prosecution - so the family, with the help of the police, launched a private prosecution - one of only four in 130 years of British legal history. Donations started flooding, lawyers offered to help for free.

Three men were finally commurder - Luke Knight Neil Acourt and Gary Dobson.

Three years to the day after Stephen's death, the case came to trial only to collapse. The crucial identification evidence of Stephen's friend, Duwayne Brooks, was ruled inadmissible. Mr Justice Curtis ruled the

identification "contradictory and contaminated and said it could lead to injustice. The family accepted it was neither "fair or proper" to try and put other material before a jury.

Covert video reveals depth of hatred

Neil Acourt brandished a knife, waved it around and thrust it into the wall or furniture

uttering vile racist abuse.
"I reckon that every nigger should be chopped up mate and they should be left with nothing but fucking stumps."

His extremist views and his

naked aggression were revealed in video tapes shot secretly by in video tapes shot secrety by police and shown at the committal hearings. They provided a video nasty of racial hatred featuring Neil Acourt. Gary Dobson and Luke Knight, the three men whose trial for the murder of Stephen Lawrence collarsed for lack of evidence collapsed for lack of evidence yesterday. Also on film were David Norris, originally charged but not committed for trial, and two others, Charlie Martin and Danny Caetano.
The video was filmed during

a two-week period in December 1994 - a year and a half after Stephen's murder, after police had gained access to their shared home in Eltham, south London, and placed a camera in an electric socket.

According to the supendiary magistrate, David Cooper, who sent the three for trial, the video showed "a deeply held emphatic and sadistic loathing of all black people".
"This is not the sly and snig-

gering racism which is common in many sectors of society. It is not even the blatant racism used on the football terraces.

In another sequence David Norris said: " If I was going to kill myself do you know what I'd do? I'd go and kill every black c***, every Paki, every copper. every mug that I know. I would go down to Catford ... with two sub-machine guns and . . . I'd set on one of them, skin him alive, torture him and set him alight. I'd blow their two legs and arms off and say go on you

can swim home now. Racist abuse was triggered by events such as the success of black British athletes like Colin Jackson and Linford Christie or the Cameroon football team.

Michael Mansfield, the QC who prosecuted on behalf of the Lawrence family, said the tape revealed a motive of race hatred, on the streets, and, most contentiously, contained a sequence which could amount to a confession.

Defence lawyers accepted the videos showed "unpalatable racist attitudes".

They argued that extreme racist views were neither a motive nor evidence of murder. There was nothing to connect the men with Stephen's killing and to show the videos would so prejudice a jury there would be no chance of a fair trial.

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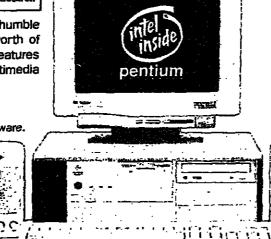




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Shakespeare revealed as 'closet Catholic'

ANDREW BROWN Religious Affairs Correspondent

William Shakespeare may have been a closet Catholic, In an article in this week's Tablet, a Catholic news magazine. Dr Eamon Duffy, of Magdalene College Cambridge, concludes Shakespeare was "A churchpapist, outwardly conforming. but inwardly rejecting Protestant

teaching".

After Pope Pius V excommunicated Elizabeth I in 1570 and removed Catholics from their obligation of obedience. she made Catholic priests and those who sheltered them guilty of treason. One of Shakespeare's school-fellows, Robert Debdale, converted to Catholicism and was executed as a priest in 1586. His first school-

master died a Jesuit in Rome. Shakespeare's father seems to have re-converted to Catholicism in the 1580s. A bricklayer working on his house in 1757 found his hand-written spiritual testament, reaffirming all his Catholic beliefs and signed John Shakespeare. The manuscript has since been lost but conforms to a pattern spread by two Jesuits sent to England under cover in 1580, who were later captured and executed.

Dr Duffy finds suggestive evidence in the fact that Shakespeare did not attend Anglican communion at Easter for nine years when he lived in Southwark, although it was illegal to miss the service.

Even his marriage to Anne Hathaway, in a village some distance from Stratford, seems suggestive to Dr Duffy: "Neither the Shakespeares nor the Hathaways had connections there. but the vicar, John Frith, was an old Catholic priest, suspect to the Protestant authorities as 'unsound in religion'. It could well be, therefore, that the teenage bridegroom deliberately opted for the ministrations of a known Catholic.

"Shakespeare's treatment of Catholic themes is consistently sympathetic. Friars, nuns and the religious life get a remarkably good press from him; Anglican clergy, by contrast, a bad one." However, Dr Duffy draws

back from claiming for certain that Shakespeare was a Catholic and even doubts whether should be considered a Christian writer at all.



Shakespeare: Protestant teachings

'Impossible to fix motion' says Blair aide

MICHAEL STREETER

Iony Blair's press secretary Alistair Campbell denied at the High Court yesterday that he had urged Labour MP's to sign a Commons motion attacking a conservative MP. Mr Campbell said that at the

time of the allegation when he was political editor of the Daily Mirror he had been in a briefing with the Prime Minister's secretary Gus O'Donnell. He was giving evidence in a case brought by Torbay MP Rupert Allason who is suing Campbell. a former Mirror colleague, and Mirror Group Newspapers for malicious falschood over an article in the Daily Mirror in November 1992

Allason, who is representing himself, says the story falsely claimed that 50 MP's signed an Early Day Motion suggesting he hand over part of his substantial libel damages from Mirror Group to Maxwell pensioners

facing financial ruin.

Mr Campbell denied an earlier claim by Labour MP George Galloway that he saw the journalist trying to persuade a new MP to sign the mo-

"It is untrue and physically impossible. I did not go to that part of the Commons, " said Mr amphell. "The Prime Minisler's press secretary wanted to have a private word with me about what was going on in The Mirror. He was extremely supportive and said the Prime Minister was taking an interest.

Mr Campbell dismissed sug-

gestions he had initiated the EDM or was involved in writing the story, saying the first he knew of it was when his deputy David Bradshaw told him as the story was being filed.

He had spoken to the editor of The Mirror about it, but this was "routine" because it was a short story involving the news-paper. Mr Campbell denied any malice or vendetta against Mr Allason. Far from attacking the MP, he had pressed for a correction in the newspaper.

Earlier Mr Bradshaw had admitted coming up with the idea for the EDM, a draft of which he passed to two Labour MP's who amended it and circulated it amongst colleagues.

He also admitted that at the time he had not told the whole truth about the authorship, and error of judgement which had dragged Alistair Campbell's name through the mud." Labour MP Peter Kilfoyle who had later signed the EDM said he thought the text of the motion was "humourous".

Mr Allason claims the article was malicious and that he lost a \$100,000 book contract as a result

Charles Gray QC for Mirror Group Newspapers, Mr Camp-bell and ex-Mirror journalist Andy McSmith who deny the claims, said he was not sure now what the MP's case was against

his clients. The case continues. Ped in pak of the local

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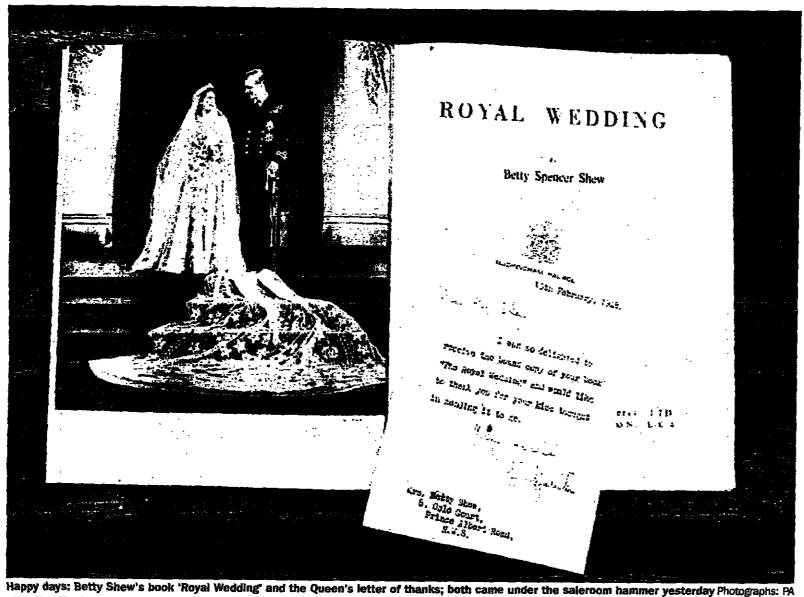
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Annette Buckley sipped a sherry and prepared to tell her hus-hand that she had paid £5,000 for three letters of love and a rare insight into the life of a

"I think he'll forgive me," she said. "I told him I wouldn't go above £2,500, but I wouldn't have been able to sleep for three nights if I hadn't got them."

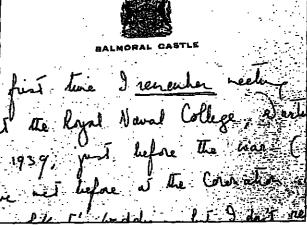
In tense telephone bidding, Mrs Buckley, 54, outbid auction rivals yesterday to secure the let-ters from the then Princess Elizabeth, now the Queen, describing her romance with naval lieutenant Philip Mountbatten. It is thought to be the first time that personal letters from a reigning monarch have been offered for sale.

They describe how the couple first met, their shared passion for dancing and the thrill of driving along in his MG sports car. "Philip enjoys driving and does it fast!" the young princess told Betty Shew, a court correspondent who had asked for details for a book she was writing on the royal

Mrs Buckley set her heart on acquiring the writings as soon as she read about them.

They will now become the star attraction of the museum Mrs Buckley set up in Battle, near Hastings, when her hobby of collecting assorted memorabilia took over her life and home and became a business.

She and her husband, Brian, gave up their newsagent's shop 10 years ago and opened Yes-terday's World, a museum of everyday life since Victorian times which now welcomes



Courting history: Princess Elizabeth told of her romance with Philip Mountbatten in this letter to Betty Shew found by lawyers when Mrs Shew's last relative died

120,000 visitors a year, attracted by exhibits which include a Victorian chemist shop and a 1930s-style children's nursery.
"We have this one room of

royalty, with a life-sized animated Queen Victoria and this will go very nicely into it." Mrs Buckley said. "They're up there, we're down here, but it brings us all together."

The letters were put up for sale when they were discovered by lawyers among the papers of a relative of Mrs Shew's, a Miss Edbrooke. There were no other family members left to inherit them when Miss Edbrooke died recently in a nursing home in

Marc Burridge, of Clevedon Salerooms in Avon, said he was delighted to be asked to sell them. The main London auction houses have agreed not to

deal in private correspondence from the royal family dated after 1938 without permission from Buckingham Palace.

A Christie's spokeswoman said: "Letters between the

Queen and Prince Philip we probably wouldn't sell." But Mr Burridge said he did not consider the writings private as the details were published in Mrs Shew's book, also includ-

ed in the lot. "I thought about it very carefully but the information is in the public domain and it actually painted a very nice picture.

he said after the sale. Mrs Buckley, meanwhile, was ouring a glass of sherry for her husband. "I only started collecting things because he start-

ed playing golf," she said. "He's got a lot to answer for.

Strike threat lifted after deal on boy, 13

Education Correspondent

Teachers lifted a threatened old boy last night after a lastminute deal was struck to keep him out of lessons. Staff at Glaisdale school in Nottingham had been due to stop work indefinitely from today in protest at the excluded boy's return to school.

Richard Wilding, who was said to have been involved in more than 30 incidents in less than two terms, will now be taught at home by a tutor and in a special unit. He will remain on the school but will not attend.

Richard had been excluded temporarily on three occasions before being permanently excluded in February. The local authority approved his removal but an independent appeals panel backed his parents. Rita and Philip Wilding. They wanted Richard returned to Glaisdale and were not prepared to

accept any alternative. It was revealed vesterday that Mrs Wilding was convicted of assault after attacking and disabling a housing officer who

called at her home four years ahead. A further meeting with ago to discuss repairs to a wall.
Gerald Bunting, 55, suffered serious spinal injuries and now has
the parents yesterday yielded the new deal.
Last night Nigel de Gruchy, waik wiin cruiche

Members of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT), which has 20 members among the school's 38 staff, voted to strike rather than allow the boy back into their lessons. The other unions at the school discussed the possibility of refusing to teach him.

Earlier this week Richard was being taught at Glaisdale by a supply teacher, in isolation from other pupils. He was not allowed to meet his friends at break times or even to go to the toilet on his own, but a teachers' union claimed he had still

threatened another pupil. After a meeting with the family, the county council and the school's head teacher on Tuesday, a deal was struck allowing Richard to be taught on his own at school as well as receiving lessons at home and in a special unit. However, the NASUWT refused to accept this and confirmed on Wednes-

day that the strike would still go

eral secretary of the union said he was immensely proud of his members' action which was

"trades unionism at its best". "The principle has been established that parents do not have the right to choose whatever school they like for their children regardless of the behaviour of their offspring."

He added that his members at another school had already been balloted on industrial action after an appeal overturned an expulsion, he said.

Richard's parents were angered by the result, but hoped would be able to return to Glaisdale. "We are extremely disappointed with the attitude of the unions. We feel Richard has been used as a scapegoat and a pawn in a political game, they said in a statement issued

through their solicitor. The Wildings had the law on their side but ministers said that children who had been excluded more than twice might lose their right to appeal.

Letters, page 14

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Poison brings down red kites

Five red kites, one of Britain's rarest birds of prey, have been killed by deliberate poisoning in recent weeks. All had been imported from Europe and released into the wild, in an attempt to establish a new English population.

The carrion-eating bird became extinct in England and Scotland at the end of the last century because of persecution by gamekeepers and farmers, with only a small population clinging on in Wales.

Four of the dead birds were found in southern England, near where most of the imported birds have been set free. The other was found in the Midlands, where nine young kites were released last summer in an attempt to establish a second breeding population in England.

One of the birds was found dead on its nest. All are thought to have eaten buit left out in the open and laced with alpha chloralose, a rodenticide.

However, the bait was probably intended to kill foxes or ravens rather than the red kite. The practice of setting out poisoned meat in the country-Side is illegal but still wide-

Barbara Young, chief execu-



Rare bird: Imports have revived UK kite population

tive of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds which has been sponsoring the reintro-ductions, said: "I'm appalled by the thoughtless and illegal use of poisons which is jeopardising the success of this highly important reintroduction

project." Since 1989, almost 200 young red kites have been released in southern England and northern Scotland in a joint programme hetween the society and government wildlife conserva-

ion organisations. The new arrivals have begun breeding in both countries and their population is building up. But poisoned bait had killed birds before this year, and in 1995 another was found to have been wounded by shotgun

Chest pain may offset risk of fatal heart attack

Research into chest pain could lead to new ways of reducing the risk of fatal heart attacks, doctors have found.

Angina, the chest pain caused by heart disease, acts as a warning that a heart attack might be on its way. But new studies suggest that molecular changes in heart cells during an episode of angina may help protect the heart should an at-

ack occur. Cells that have undergone such changes can resist the ef-fects of loss of blood supply, which ultimately causes a heart attack, for much longer.

A paper published vesterday in the medical journal the Lancer, by researchers led by Professor Derek Yellon from University College Hospital in London, reported: "This paradoxical protection is the most powerful and reproducible experimental method of delaying the onset of myocardial infarction [heart attack] yet known."

The researchers conclude that one day it may be possible to induce the protective changes in heart cells with drugs to reduce heart attack death and

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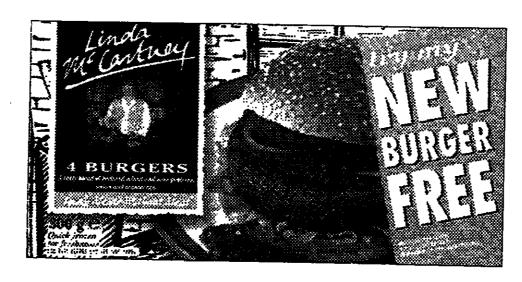
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A camera that was touted as leading a revolution for amateur photographers suffers from some of the same failings as its forebears, according to a test by the independent yesterday.

The findings may come as a surprise to the hundreds of people who manufacturers say have bought the new Advanced Photo System (APS) cameras from Kodak, Fuji and Nikon, which were launched on Monday. Early reports from the manufacturers suggest that APS cameras have comprised near-ly half of camera sales this

The manufacturers have said that APS cameras, which need special APS films - designed to be easy to insert and remove -will record on the film if the photo was taken in low or excessive light conditions, or using a flash which might affect light conditions, by encoding digital data on the back of the film. It was seen by industry ob-

ree

THE WAR



camera developed by Kodak servers as a revolution which

would replace conventional 35mm film and hit-and-miss methods of processing.
Although it requires new de-

veloping machines to read the films, APS also cannot necessarily improve the quality of work by high street developers - identified by a professional photographer as one of the most common causes of disappointing photos. This is despite the £200m that manufacturers have spent in the past five years developing APS.

As these photographs show, Kodak's new £130 APS camera cannot compensate for pictures with high levels of contrast, one of the most common prob-lems in amateur photographs.

The photographs, taken by Independent photographer Tony Buckingham, also indicate that the benefits of APS have not spread to the processing of pic-tures. Because the panoramic picture was taken with APS, it had to be developed at a laboratory in Birmingham for Kodak. The entire picture is overexposed, compared to the other photo, which was developed in a darkroom at the

Henry Rees, technical services manager at Kodak UK, said "This is purely a function of how the processing lab print-ed it. What APS can do in terms of getting information to the photo's processor does not extend to manipulating the con-

That was a task for the per-son developing the photo in the processing lab or shop.





How they compare

The upper photo, taken with Kodak's £130 Advan tix 3600ix Advanced Phot System camera, is a panoramic view of a lamp post on the north of the Thames, on the Embankment. The wide contrast range between the dark ironwork in the foreground and the lighter sky and buildings has created a classic problem: detail is lost. The photograph has also been overexposed in its processing by a high street laboratory.

The lower photo, taken us ing an Olympus OM-1 camera costing more than £600, show the effects of a sensitive light-metering system and careful processing: details of the iron work are visible in the foreground, but so are those in the background, the sky and the opposite riverbank.

Photographs: Tony Buckingham

Model, the tycoon and two suits of armour

For the second successive day, the young woman who claims she was raped by Owen Oyston broke down in tears under cross-examination and then accused the media tycoon's counsel of bullying her. She also claimed that Mr Oys-

ton, 62, the chairman of Black-pool Football Club, was probably sleeping with the girls

The model, who said the alleged attack would leave her and agreed with Mr Scrivener with mental scars for the rest of it would have been "totally inwas confronted in court with two suits of armour and asked whether she could identify one as being in Oyston's country home when she claims she was driven there and raped on a four-poster bed.

The woman, 25, cried as she asked Anthony Scrivener QC: "Have you brought the four-poster bloody bed as well?

Mr Scrivener told her the jury at Liverpool Crown Court were going to see it. They are due to visit Mr Oyston's country home near Lancaster next week.

"Well, I hope you remember me in that bed. Bring the drapes, everything, the decor."

She was questioned over the attack, in which she claims Mr Oyston ordered her to remove her underwear before forcing himself on her seven years ago.

Mr Scrivener told her: "You are not the sort of person who is going to take your knickers off for anyone. You would have hit back. You are a forceful personality."

The woman, who has modelled on national television, said: "You like bullying people. Do you know what it's like? You are a bloke for God's sake. You don't know."

Mr Oyston denies raping the girl and raping and indecently assaulting a second model alleged to be 16 at the time.

The first alleged victim agreed she had been left physically unmarked, but said: The

only mark left was the mark on my mind for the rest of my life." A few minutes earlier slie was questioned about an allegation that some time after the rape she was invited to dinner by Mr Oyston and was excited by the prospect. It was suggested that because she was in casual clothing she had borrowed a new suit from one of Mr Oyston's employees, Sharon Denbigh.

She denied it had happened been raped by Mr Oyston.

Probably Sharon slept with

him," she said. "Probably all the people that worked for him and got paid by him and all the girls that got promoted by him and stuff. I wouldn't be surprised. I wouldn't put it past him."

When Mr Scrivener suggested going to a dinner where Mr Ovston was present was inconsistent with having been raped by him, she replied: "I was frightened of him."

The girl admitted earlier that she had been wrong when she The girl went on tearfully: had insisted that she was aged 17 when the rape happened, a claim she repeated during crossexamination and in an earlier trial at when the jury failed to reach a verdict on the rape

> She made her admission after the defence produced sales sheets from a fashion shop in her home town, where she agreed she had worked for nine months up to April 1989 before joining a modelling agency in Manchester, Model Team, run by Peter Martin, who introduced her to Mr Oyston.

She said: "I now realise it happened in 1989. I wasn't 17,

I was 18. Mr Scrivener accused her of being "caught out" by the defence evidence and told her: "If my client had been convicted at the last trial it would have been on the basis it happened in 1988,

to a 17-year-old. The case continues.



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The Baths at Hammat Gader

DAILY POEM

By Eudocia Augusta

Countless marvels have I seen in life, endless wonders, but even with a thousand tongues, who could tell your fame, noble spa, 100 great to grasp by mere mortals.

me name you for a fiery ocean, newly turning physician, parent, the provider of such sweet streams. From you is born this never-ending swell, rushing here and then there, now white-hot, now wintry, now warm to touch, your beauty pours forth as one from fountains, four fold four.

l name vou now: India, Matrona, Repentius, I name you now: inaia, mairona, reperuius,
Elijah the holy prophet, and Antoninus
the Good, dew-drenched Galatea, Hygiea herself,
the large warming baths, and the small, the pearl white waters,
and the old spa-head, long disused; India again,
Matrona, Briara, the Patriarch, and the Nun. for those in suffering your strength is constant comfort. But I sing in praise of god, whose wisdom is far-famed ...

Archaeologists excavating the bath-house complex at Hammat Gader in the Yarmuk Valley, Israel, discovered this 17line fragment inscribed on a plaque of marble in a pavement surrounding one of the pools. It is one of a hundred such verses in a new anthology by Bloodaxe of Classical Women Poets, translated and introduced by Josephine Balmer, and includes the work of the most gifted of classical writers, Sappho. A collection of great charm.

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Transport paper opts for the easy route

HRISTIAN WOLMAR ansport correspondent

he Government yesterday iled away from controversy in long-awaited Green Paper on ansport by avoiding firm desions on most of the thorny lestions raised by last year's ansport debate.

In what is a very anodyne re-HEATionse to that debate which was Homeitiated by the then Secretary State for Transport, Brian

The lawhinney, the aim seems to Stephive been to avoid any hostages el mu, fortune in the forthcoming vowecection hustings. The Paper was justichmediately condemned as a vate timp squib by environmentalmen ts and the roads lobby alike.

Ne Issues like road pricing, taxfathe g staff car parks, privatising lieve c roads, and restricting private what ir use in town centres are Nergely ignored, and there are Knig w suggestions on how to cope

20. With ever-increasing traffic. But Baile one of the few measures likewitht to attract controversy, the M overnment has left the door had ben for councils to charge

one en the motivating force be-

solicilding group, the British Roads tionederation, calculates that in the ie past 10 years, traffic has in-

islation would be required, ensuring nothing can be done before an election.

On charging or taxing emovees who use staff car parks, the Paper says the Government is "prepared to explore the area further" but at the moment is "not persuaded of the case for eeking enabling legislation".

In one of the few sections welcomed by environmentalists, the Government is to ensure councils have a greater say in the trunk road network; they will be able to put forward objections before plans are drawn up rather than afterwards.

At a briefing yesterday, Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, who has been forced in Cabinet arguments to tone down the Paper lest it appear anti-motorist. said the report contained "many nuggets" but was unable to list any apart from the decision to set up a national telephone enquiry bureau for train services.

Edmund King, campaigns manager for the Royal Automobile Club (RAC), said: "It's



Jack Straw, Labour's home af-

fairs spokesman, yesterday pro-

duced unpublished official

figures which he said showed a

rising tide of disorder and anti-

social behaviour, despite falls in

Parliament

Stephen Goodwin

the official crime rate, writes

collected by the police in order

He said the statistics -

John Rentoul.

be a trading haven outside the European Union were living in

The Prime Minister's remarks in a speech to the Institute of Directors in London was intended to scotch talk of pos-

But Mr Renton had another target. Pointing out that the original Cloud-cuckoo-land was "an imaginary city built in the air by the birds", he went on: "Would that not be a suitable destination

too, for those who think they can vote Labour without seeing their personal and business taxes going sky high?"

in disturbances. in 1994-5. The

figures cover a range of inci-

dents from drunkenness and

domestic disputes to neigh-

to work out government funding – showed a 12 per cent rise pass but can also include crime figures.

Not only personal and business taxes. Mr Major replied. "It now seems that anyone who is ill-advised enough to encourage their youngster to stay on and take A-levels will lose £560 of child benefit every year." It was not just a question of the withdrawal of child benefit.

because the benefit was a tax allowance, he said. "This is the direct equivalent of a tax increase of £560 for every family with children taking A-levels."
Turning to the shadow Chan-

cellor, he added: "It's no point in Mr Brown shaking his head it's his policy, it's nonsense and we intend to tell every family in the land about it." However, it is not just Tory to the Government, the motion is in reality a shot across the bows of the shadow Chancellor. ony Blair, however, focused on the Prime Minister's difficulties over the Family Law Bill after 165 Tories, including four Cabinet ministers,

scorn that Mr Brown has to worry about. Sixteen Labour left-

wingers have signed a motion

stating that the maintenance of

universal child benefit is "an es-

sential part of the welfare state".

Though nominally addressed

everyday disturbances. Mr Straw said: "Anti-social behav-

iour by neighbours, incivility and

loutishness in town centres is

rarely reflected in recorded

voted to extend to 18 months the "cooling off period" before most couples can get a divorce. The revolt showed "the humiliating state to which Mr Major's authority has been reduced".

"I think most people have an increasingly clear view of his feeble Governmen government," the Labour memory," he said.

leader said. "This was a government Bill ... and this vote wasn't just about the amendment. It was fundamentally about the ethos of the Bill and the direction of the Conserva-

"Yet it can hugely damage the quality of people's lives. It can

lead to people boycotting town

centres and becoming prisoners

in their own homes.

tive Party." An angry Mr Major was called to order by Speaker Betty Boothroyd as he accused Mr Slair of being "deliberately misleading" - an unparliamentary charge. "I have made it clear that on the issues of fault and other issues of conscience this would

be a genuinely free vote." But Mr Blair persisted. The Prime Minister's real problem was that every member of his Cabinet had a future agenda but him. "And until he gets one and asserts it, this country will continue to suffer from the most feeble Government in living

Minister fears row over help for elderly

COLIN BROWN

Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, is urging Cabinet colleagues to postpone a White Paper giving hope to the elderly facing high costs for long-term care because he fears it will be seen as a bribe in next week's local elections.

Mr Dorrell fears that the consultation paper will become embroiled in a full-scale political row if it is published as planned two days before the local elections, in which the Tories are braced for heavy losses.

Postponing it could be embarrassing for the Prime Minister, who made a promise in his keynote speech to the Tory party conference in Harrogate that the paper would be published before the end of the month.

The insurance industry. which is likely to gain more business from the plans, is geared up for an announcement next Tuesday. The insurance company PPP, which advised the Government on the scheme, is one of the firms expecting it to be announced next week.

But the Independent has learnt that Mr Dorrell has urged Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for coordinating government announcements, to allow him to postpone the un-veiling of the document until after the elections on 2 May.

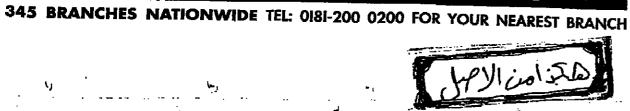
The scheme will try to answer growing protests from "middle England* — the centre ground hotly contested by Labour - that elderly people are being forced to sell their homes to qualify for state-funded long-term care.

Mr Major told Tory supporters in March: "Next month, we'll set out our proposals to deal with this challenge to help protect the family home and lifetime's savings."

Under the scheme, people would be allowed to disregard the value of the insurance they take out against their assets, and they would qualify for state-aided long-term care; insurance valued at £60,000 would allow up to £60,000 in assets to be kept, before a person would lose state aid for long-term care.

Major finds new candidate for dreamland cuticad users in congested areas. paralysis by analysis. This report could have been written by an only While the Government is said ammitted to road tolling on undergraduate. It contains vir-|loud-cuckoo-land is in danger of becoming overcrowded. Having tually no policy." Transport, the Way Forward. ing cotorways and busy inter-urban and roads, there is only one sufficent paragraph on the subject HMSO, 138pp, £15 70 consigned his more rabid Euro-Thich emphasises that new leg-Road going nowhere, page 15 sceptics to dreamland on Wednesday, John Major yesdeferric Dilemma of congestion terday fingered Gordon Brown. the shadow Chancellor, as another suitable resident. The Prime Minister warned polihe need to cope with the knivowing congestion crisis has In the introduction to the that the Tories would tell every Green Paper, Sir George Young put the problem in a nutshell: "Traffic growth highlights the question of whether the aims of family in the land that Labour planned a tax rise of £560 a year Tind the national transport defor each child taking A-levels. be sate, writes Christian Wolmar. Cloud-cuckoo-land". Mr Brown last week pro-posed ending child benefit for Cro The amount of traffic was forewidening choice, of improving carlist to go up by between 83 per the cnt and 142 per cent between B388 and 2025. The pro-roadthe competitiveness of our econ-16- to 18-year-olds in full-time omy and protecting the envieducation qualify and putting ronment ... can be reconciled." the £700m raised directly into sible withdrawal from the EU. But the paper has failed to their schooling. come up with a strong pro-Mr Major's attack came at gramme for national govern-Question Time after Tim Rendoweased by an average of one-tice and on all roads, with 61 per cent ment to reduce congestion. ton, a former Tory chief whip, endorsed his declaration that Instead, it relies on local aupoli owth on motorways. thorities to tackle the problem. those who thought Britain could IXONS **BT** cMH200 **MOBILE PHONE ■** Up to 100 minutes talktime/ 22 hours standby time. Call-restrict option limits outgoing 0181 200 0200 calls to predetermined numbers. 15 number memory. • Speed dial and last number redial. ■ Electronic lock options. HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS nply connect to Occasional Calles opt to pay an extra £2.50 per month and **Dixons** (P2) C P1 Deal <u>5</u>) Usually £29.50 with all phones connected to Cellnet Occasional Caller 8 THIS TARIFF AVAILABLE 0 ON A RANGE OF * SELECTED MOBILE cellnet PHONES BIR FROM OFFERS YOU NATIONAL COVERAGE AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE





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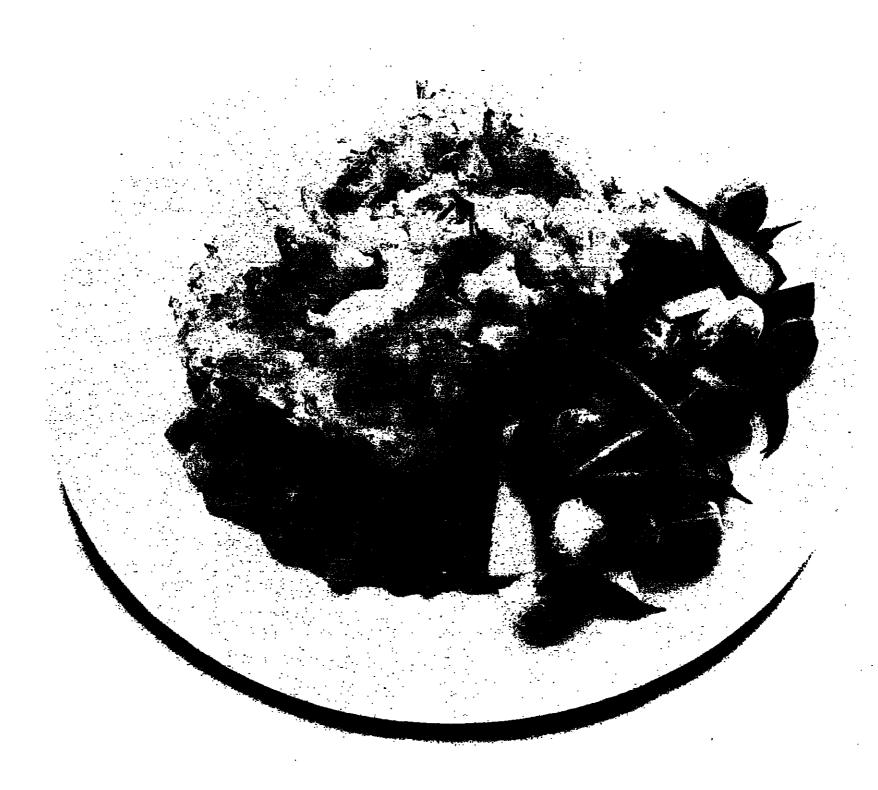
Minister fears row over help for elderly

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ⁿ Kremlin and China hail ties of friendship

RESA POOLE

ne Presidents of Russia and iina yesterday hailed a new trategic partnership" to take eir countries into the 21st cenry with a champagne toast. a day marked by mutual larations of support over difult international issues, Present Jiang Zemin bolstered oris Yeltsin's opposition to the

stern expansion of Nato. HEAThile Russia's President backed Home iina over Taiwan and Tibet. After a two-hour summit eeting, Mr Yelisin said Mr Stephung "resolutely joined Russia's el murew that Nato's expansion vowedward its borders is imper-justiceissible". The Chinese Forvate pun Ministry spokesman, Shen

men cuofang, later quoted China's Nevesident as expressing "his fatheriderstanding and support for lieve ie Russian position on this what lestion." He quoted Mr Jiang Nei saying: "The expansion of Knighlitary alliance in the post-

20. wold-War era would not serve Baileye interests of all, and is not witnernsistent with the trend of Miæ times." had b Previously, China has said the

cutionestion of Nato's extension was only thy of concern to the parties said tvolved. ing o'The signing by the presi-and sents of a third Joint Statement

suffictween the two countries in the Threat Hall of the People apmitta ars to mark the warmest pedefend of Sino-Russian relations teringce the early days of the fantaninese People's Republic. turiniMr Yeltsin said: "I can't policime a single question on kniverich we would have different

one oinions." Mr Jiang was equal-Th fulsome. "Sino-Russian be seendly relations have entered

cessful visit at this time is clearly in the interests of both presidents. Mr Yeltsin faces elections in June at home, while China is at loggerheads with the United States on several issues. Yesterday's Sino-Russian political declaration, in a pointed reference to the West and to Washington in particular, warned: "Hegemonism, power politics and repeated imposition of pressure on other countries

Boris Yeltsin and Jiang Zemin: Agreed on Nato and Tibet

have continued to occur. Bloc politics has taken up new manifestations. World peace and development still face serious challenges.'

In order not to let details spoil the atmosphere, both sides sidestepped the fact that Chi-na is still at odds with the other nuclear powers over the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Mr Yeltsin said energy, machine building, China had agreed to reach an aviation, space, agriculture, agreement on a complete end to nuclear tests by the end of the nology. However, there was no year. However, the Foreign

Both countries deny they are contradicting the Russian Pres-forming an alliance. But a suc-ident, made it clear Peking still ident, made it clear Peking still believed "peaceful nuclear explosions" should be excluded from the treaty.

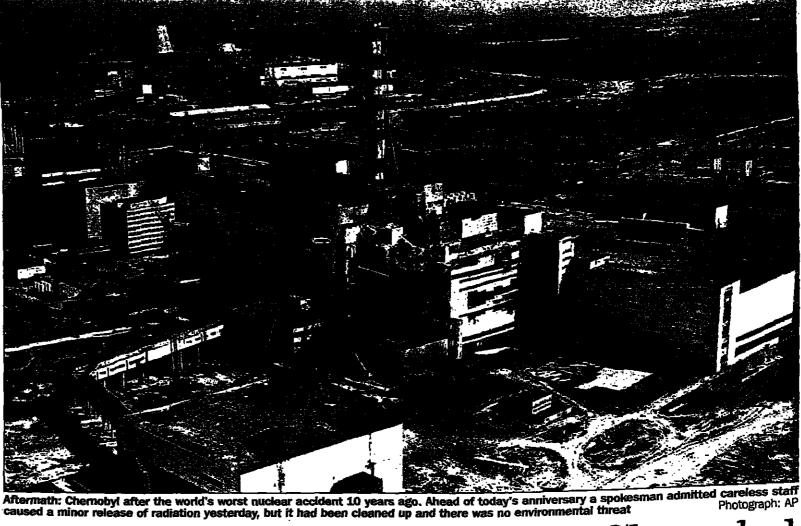
"As for peaceful explosions, it is clear China has its own position, but I also see scholars and experts do not see eye to eye on this subject either. Therefore there should be further discussions in this regard," Mr Shen said. He would not say whether China would stop other tests when the treaty was signed, or at a later ratification date.

The two presidents agreed China and Russia will hold regular meetings and a telephone "hot-line" would be set up between Moscow and Peking. Plans for a hot-line between Peking and Washington are no longer under discussion, said the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

There was also a mutual desire to speed up negotiations on the reduction of military forces along the 4.300km border. The common border would be one of "peace, tranquillity, friend-ship and good-neighbourli-ness", said the joint statement.

Mr Yeltsin said Russia fully adhered to a "One-China" policy, would not establish official ties with Taiwan, and offered a 'firm, resolute and clear-cut' position on Tibet being part of China. In return, Mr Jiang said the question of Chechnya was a "domestic affair" of Russia. He also backed Russia's wish for admission to the Asia-Pacific

Economic Co-operation body. Widespread economic links were promised, covering nuclear communications and high techmention of any agreement over Ministry spokesman, while not sales of military equipment.



Lithuanians take pride in their Chernobyl

ADRIAN BRIDGE Ignalina, Lithuania

"For 10 years, people have been saying that this is another Cher-nobyl just waiting to happen. Well, it has not happened. And it is not going to happen. I can give you a firm guarantee."

As technical director of the Ignalina nuclear power plant in Lithuania, Gennadij Negrivoda is used to being on the defensive. The two reactors at the plant are among the 15 that share the same design as the infamous reactor number four at Chernobyl that exploded 10 years ago yesterday.

Although they have been

past decade, they are frequently singled out by western nuclear power experts as among the

most dangerous in the world. "In my view they are no worse than some of the early western nuclear power sta-tions, insists Mr Negrivoda, squinting over every word. "But anyway, in the time since Chernobyl, they have been transformed into different reactors.

They simply could not explode." Safe or not, the power plant at Ignalina is here to stay, at least for the foreseeable future. Built when Lithuania belonged to the Soviet Union, the

plant was designed to provide cheap power for all three Baltic

Lithuanians initially viewed it with hostility, but changed their tune after gaining independence in 1991 and began to

view the facility with pride. By then they were also totally dependent on it. The two reac-tors in operation at Ignalina now generate more than 80 per cent of Lithuania's power, and closing them would pluuge the country into darkness.

To those in the West who clamour for Ignalina to be closed, Mr Negrivoda asks: Where else are we going to get our electricity from? And who is going to pay for it?

Of the 15 RMBK Chemobylstyle reactors still operating in Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania, biggest and the most modern. Modernity, however, is not the word that springs to mind

on passing through the set of control barriers at the entrance to the plant. Here at "Check-point Charlie" - as the controls are termed by the plant's 5,000-strong workforce the plant has an outdated, run-down feel. That image is reinforced out-

side by the sight of rusty cranes hovering over the foundations of a third reactor, the building of which was abandoned following public protests shortly after the Chernobyl explosion.

In the immediate wake of the disaster, the Soviet Union modified the RMBK reactors aimed

the two at Ignalina are the at ensuring nothing like it could ever happen again.

Despite Western assistance. Ignalina continued to be plagued by frequent mishaps. most worryingly the disappear-ance in 1992 of a fuel rod, now believed to have been stolen. Such incidents have not

helped convince the doubters that, in addition to technical improvements, the plant is now infused with the 'culture of safety" in the workplace.

But according to Mr Negrivoda, these are routine occurrences. "All reactors have their weak points - even in the West - and that is how it should be. The point is, though, we are

Nato overtures place Ukraine in strategic dilemma

tice s policNY BARBER flawev

the o the west lies Nato, apparently ness dicated to expanding into prisistem Europe. To the east lies ussia, apparently determined bring back most former wiet republics under its

> fluence. No wonder these are trouing times for Ukraine, a counirely recovered from the surise of gaining independence Ukrainian state itself. 1991 before discovering that

it risks turning into a flashpoint that Nato's enlargement will not Leonid Kravchuk, Ukraine has announcement of a new union Union's restoration, albeit by between two new Western and Eastern blocs.

Hungary and Poland, keen to lock themselves permanently into Western institutions. But for leaders in Kiev the expansion of the Atlantic alliance is a process which, if mishandled, of 52 million people that has could threaten the integrity and independence of the

Nato's enlargement clearly seems attractive to govern-react vigorously if Nato goes ments in the Czech Republic, ahead. Seen from Ukraine, the it as a bad sign when Mr Yeltsin dependent States (CIS), the loose association of newly sovereign countries that replaced the Soviet Union.

threaten Russia, President Boris Yeltsin and his advisers have greatest concern is that Moscow will seek to accelerate the nolitical and military integration of the Commonwealth of In-

Under President Leonid Despite Western assurances Kuchma, and his predecessor,

the CIS, fearing it as a first step to being dragged back under Moscow's control. Leaders took issued a decree last September that Ukraine was delaying an that envisaged the transformation of the CIS into a Russianled security alliance.

Matters have grown even more serious for Ukraine this year. The Russian parliament's condemnation of the treaty that abolished the Soviet Union was quickly followed by the

opposed closer integration of between Russia and Belarus, a pro-Russian state which borders Ukraine.

Then Mr Yeltsin postponed a visit to Kiev on the grounds agreement on how to divide up the former Soviet Black Sea fleet, based in the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea. To crown everything, Mr Yeltsin's chief opponent in next June's presidential election in Russia, Gennady Zyuganov, is a Communist Another is to exploit Ukraine's who stands for the Soviet dependence on Russia for oil

peaceful means.

Significantly, all these implicit threats to Ukraine's independence have emerged even before Nato has set out a precise statehood dominate Crimea timetable for incorporating and parts of eastern Ukraine. Poland and other states. Assuming that it eventually announces such a timetable, there are several ways for Russia to tighten the screw on Ukraine.

One is to deploy extra Russian military forces in Belarus. Another is to exploit Ukraine's

and gas. A third point of vul- Ukraine, there is an obvious risk nerability for Ukraine lies in the fact that ethnic Russian majorities who are not noticeably enthusiastic about Ukrainian

Mr Yeltsin has avoided playing these cards, but it is easy to imagine a tougher Russian policy in the event of Nato's exnansion, especially if the next president in the Kremlin is not

that Nato's enlargement, coupled with a hardline Russian response, could jeopardise unity. Faced with this prospect, officials in Kiev say Nato should take the utmost care, when ex-

panding, not to isolate Russia or undermine Ukraine's security. Best of all, according to Deputy Foreign Minister, Konstyantyn Hryshchenko, would be for Nato to transform itself into a reformer. With Ukrainian a "Euro-Atlantic security ornationalism enjoying its ganisation" that would include strongest support in western Russia and Ukraine.

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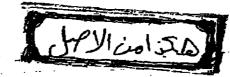
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War in Lebanon: Villagers flee as Israeli jets bomb rural roads and reservoirs

Shattered lives cast adrift on the broken highways

Ein Baal, southern Lebanon

The sound of the Israeli jets power-diving over the main road from Tyre to Qana sent us scurrying to the window. There was a rumble of bombs to the cast and black fingers of smoke shot into the sky. When we reached the scene of the air strike, there was a 30ft crater in the highway and the olive trees were blessed with a line grey dust from the explosion. The Israelis were cutting the roads all

across southern Lebanon. Over the hills of this poor. stony land, they were blowing up the ancient highways, isolating Qana from Tyre, Tibnin from Qana, Ghandouriyeh from the Litani river. They have now bombed three of the bigger water reservoirs, cutting water from 20 villages in the north, another 15 to the south, turning fertility into a future desert. "I had 800 goats," a middle-aged farmer lamented to me in the village of Kneyseh, as the jets howled over us. "Now 400 of them have died for want of food and the rest will die soon. The Israelis are driving out those of us who wish to remain on our land."

And, he might have added, stopping the brave young soldiers of the United Nations peacekeeping force - driving every day through Israeli shellfire - from delivering the supplies which allow these tough Lebanese villagers to cling to their homes and land under the Israeli artillery bombardment. Convoys of bedding and of grain for livestock are humming south along the coast road, past Israel's three marauding gunboats but after yesterday's air strikes, they will be strand-ed in Tyre, unable to take their vehicles down the broken roads to those who so desperately need their supplies.

The Israelis will no doubt argue that their road-blasting is intended to hinder the movements of the Hizbollah, whom they still claim to be attacking after 15 days of their multi-billion dollar Grapes of Wrath' epic. But the Hizbollah, as the Israelis should know and living among these hills, living at night in the orchards, walking between villages, avoid-

filemma

maurious weekend

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ing the dangerous roads. The scale of the war in south-



arrow into a cloud. "We will live

here or be taken from here to

our cemetery," a woman in a

dark gown shouted at the UN

soldiers who had brought food

to the 100 people of her village.

but the Israelis want us out,

There are no Hizbollah here

away from our land. Never, moves darkly into a third week?

Israeli soldiers' helmets resting on 155mm artillery shells during a lull in fighting yesterday

cians who daily log the outgo-ing and incoming fire of both Is-rael and the Hizbollah. In the 14 days since Israel's offensive

began, for example, UN troops have recorded 523 Israeli air strikes in just their own area of operations, along with 23,000 Israeli artillery rounds fired into But in the same period, the Hizbollah have managed to fire

1.100 Katyusha rockets at northern Israel - more in a fortnight than in the past 20 years and were yesterday still retaliating with missile fire for Israel's destruction of the very infrastructure of southern Lebanon. But the Lebanese are a resourceful people, and within

hours of the air strikes they were driving their cars and vans around the massive bomb crater at Ein Baal, ploughing through the grev earth of the olive groves. The UN's Irish battalion was cut off in Tibnin by the Israeli road bombing, but by midday. Sergeant Thomas Byrne, Trooper John Hanley same track through the orchard, the radio aerials of the Finnish-made personnel carriers thwacking into the branches of the olive trees. Relations between the UN

and the Israelis are deteriorat-

ing almost as rapidly as Israel's disastrous military operation is collapsing. Two days ago, Israeli officers made it clear that UN personnel could report their movements but would receive no more "safe clearance". If UN soldiers were close to a village from which Katyushas were fired, the Israelis would fire back and the UN would have to take the consequences. This warning, it should be remembered, came from an army which massacred 120 Lebanese refugees in a UN compound only a week ago because two Katyushas had been fired 350 yards from the post.

from the old villag Shaiyetieh, its homes built with the stones from a long-pillaged castle, we could watch the Israeli assault yesterday, plumes of black smoke rising from the genern Lebanon – and of Israel's and their colleagues were matte hills around us and – just débâcle in this hopeless conflict noeuvring their big SISU UN once – we caught a glimpse of is obvious to the UN statisti- armoured vehicles along the an Israeli jet falling like an

Unions threaten Kohl over welfare cuts

IMRE KARACS

In an effort to revive the country's economy and make it fit for European Monetary Union, the German government yes-terday launched a concerted attack on the welfare state, targeting social expenditure and workers' rights in one swoop.

By signing up for the most stringent austerity programme since the Second World War, the parties in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition declared open season on the country's sacred cows. Sick pay, unemployment benefit and pensions will bear the brunt of cuts in the social safety net; the burgeoning government bureaucracy can look forward to massive redundancies and no pay rises for the survivors.

The package, greeted with caution by the business world and howls of derision from the unions, marks the beginning of the end for Germany's muchvaunted consensus politics. The unions are contemplating strikes and threatening to consume no more beer and sandwiches with Mr Kohl. The opposition Social Democrats have warned of gridlock when the measures reach the upper chamber of parliament.

The Chancellor has hit back by putting his case directly to the people, in a letter to the masscirculation Bild Zeitung. "If we don't act now, then more jobs will be lost," he wrote. "Our social welfare state would no longer be affordable."

The government needs to dash 75bn German marks (£34bn) from next year's pubic expenditure in order to bring the deficit below the 3 per cent of GDP dictated by the Maasas Israel's fruitless offensive tricht Treaty. Under the "Programme for more growth and

employment", to be submitted to the Bundestag today, savings will come in equal measure from the federal budget, the regional and local authorities and the complex system of

social insurance. The latter is the most contentious. In taking a swing at sick pay, the Chancellor has rekindled the nation's deepseated fears about illness and poverty. Under the present sys-tem, workers on sick leave are



Kohl in parliament: Pas of reform not yet in the bag

entitled to full pay, overtime included. This has frequently enabled them to earn in their sick beds more than their basic pay. The new rules will guarantee only 80 per cent of basic pay in the first six weeks of sick leave, although in-house agreements in larger corporations are likely to remain more generous. For employees of small outfits, however, a new age will dawn on 1 January.

The national pension funds will also make savings, following the decision to raise the pension age for women from 60 by at least three years, for men from 63 to 65, and to curtail early retirement schemes which

redundancy. A planned 10-percent increase in child benefit now DM200 per month, is to be postponed. The growing ranks of the unemployed will be hit by a shrinking dole.

*The right direction but not the right pace." commented the head of the National Employers' Federation, Hans-Olaf Henkel. The unions were less guarded. The catalogue of horrors demanded by the employers and planned by parts of the coalition is completely misguided," said Dieter Schulte Chairman of the German Labour Federation. "It would

not create a single job." The unions fear Mr Kohl is harnessing the crisis to rebuild the foundations of Germany's economic model. Among the government measures is a plan to loosen the rigid laws on dismissals, bringing Germany closer to the hire-and-fire climate of Britain and the US. Under the new law, employees of small companies will have no protection against dismissal.

The Chancellor also intends to cut companies' wage burdens, which are boosted by vast social security contributions. The cost of German labour is the highest in the world, forcing companies to relocate abroad. If it was cut, business leaders argue, German industry could again compete on the world stage. Next year will see a new wave of cuts and the start of the overhaul of the tax system.

The unions are not going to take it lying down. "We will stop this drift to unbridled capitalism," pledged Klaus Zwickel, leader of the largest union, IG-Metall. It is doubtful he will succeed. Union membership is falling and with more than 4 million workers on the dole, mili-

Talks move Israel close to ceasefire

PATRICK COCKBURN

Israel is close to a ceasefire in Lebanon after six days of negotiations by Warren Christo-pher, the US Secretary of State, Israeli television reported last

The written agreement, the

report said, was being finalised in Jerusalem and Damascus. The terms of the ceasefire after the 15-day bombardment of south Lebanon by Israel - include an early resumption of peace talks between Syria and Israel, Syria to rein in Hizbol-

lah, the Lebanese guerrilla movement, and the ceasefire to be monitored by a committee consisting of Israel, the United US and Syria. It is unclear if two of the main points of disagreement have been resolved. These centre

on Israel's demand for an end to attacks by Lebanese guerrillas on Israeli troops occupying south Lebanon and Israel's right to retaliate by firing into Lebanese villages. Israeli television said the breakthrough came when Mr Christopher threatened to abandon his shuttle talks and Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, said he would escalate the conflict. Even with a written agree-ment, the real price paid by

Syria, Israel, Lebanon and Hizbollah for a ceasefire may be unclear because of unwritten understandings. In the past Syria has said it supports the right of resistance of Hizbollah in south Lebanon and opposes Israel's right to retaliate against civilian villages. Mr Peres, for his part, needs to show Israeli voters that he has made gains through launching Operation Grapes of Wrath 15 days ago.

Earlier, Israel appeared to be expanding the area it is bombarding with an air strike against a base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command.

led by Ahmed Jibril which rejects the Oslo accords. The real reason for the attack is probably to increase pressure on Syria since Mr Jibril is a Syrian ally and the base is in part of the Bekaa valley controlled by Syrian troops.

Mr Christopher met with President Assad yesterday in what diplomats say is the culmination of his six-day shuttle between Jerusalem and Damascus. In addition to rejecting Israel's demand for effective immunity from attack for its troops in the occupation zone and the right to fire into Lebanese villages, Mr Assad



Warren Christopher: Six days in Jerusalem and Damascus

had earlier turned down an Israeli demand that he take responsibility for restraining Hizbollah.

Israel's public posture is to assert that it can continue its bombardment as long as it wants in the face of intense diplomatic pressure and unfavourable publicity in the international media. A senior Israeli military officer said yesterday that the main message was that "Israel is going to need stamina and patience". He asserted that the ability of Hizbollah to fire Katyusha rockets into northern

Israel is being reduced. In reality the 23,000 shells and 523 air strikes launched by are alive and well.

This is a Palestinian movement Israel – going by figures from led by Ahmed Jibril which re- UN officers in the area – have failed to achieve their aim of suppressing Katyusha fire. Since 11 April some 1,000 Katyusha have been fired. The Israeli army said yesterday that it has killed 50 Hizbollah, though the guerrillas say their losses are lower. More certain are the figures for civilian losses with at least 155 Lebanese dead as against three Israeli civilians seriously wounded.

Israeli polls show that so far Mr Peres has gained little through Grapes of Wrath except to alienate Arab-Israeli voters. But the right-wing Likud party is preparing to blame him for grossly mismanaging the cam-paign, unless he can show that he has improved on the 1993 understanding, brokered by Mr Christopher, with Syria and

An ominous development for Mr Peres are the signs that Hamas, the Islamic militant movement, is preparing to send more suicide bombers into Israeli cities. The body of a sui-cide bomber, who killed himself accidentally, was discovered yesterday on a soccer field in south Jerusalem.

The government found political triumph, however, in the revocation of clauses offensive to Israel by three quarters of the Palestinian National Council meeting in Gaza. It may respond by partly withdrawing from Hebron in the south of the West Bank as early as this week-end.

Mr Peres said the revocation was: "the greatest ideological change of the century", adding he had always said 'Arafat could be trusted". He will use the change in the covenant to resume negotiations on the final phase of the Oslo accords on 4 May. He must do this to conciliate Arab-Israelis, without whom he will lose the election, and to show Israeli voters that that the Oslo peace negotiations

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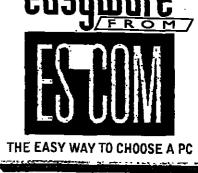
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Dudayev successor promises holy war

Grozny

The successor to the Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, killed in a Russian rocket attack this week, yesterday vowed to lead a holy war against Russia and promised to take the conflict to "a new level".

Sitting less than a mile from the field in which Dudayev was killed by a Russian rocket, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev showed little sign of being willing to compromise with the Kremlin. and called for a "popular uprising" in Chechnya and across

Watched over by a frail-looking bodyguard, the 44-year-old Chechen - a poet and former bricklayer - launched into an attack on the "mafioso-like" Russia and accused President Boris Yeltsin of being responsible for the 16-month war.

"It is my firm purpose to bring peace to the Chechen people and, in the name of that peace, I will lead them in war," Mr Yandarbiyev said. "I will take the lead in a Jihad of the Chechen people in the name of Allah and their freedom."

The appointment of the little known Chechen has led to speculation that he may be a temporary leader, filling in until the separatist commanders settle the succession. But he gave no indication of planning to stand down soon.

In an oration paying tribute to the dead general, Mr Yan-darbiyev praised his dignity, onesty and courage. "Someone had to lead from the front."

Mr Yandarbiyev, a vice-president during Dudayev's three years in power, can hardly be perceived as soft on Russia so soon after the death of the general who died in a Russian rocket attack while speaking on a satellite telephone in a field in southern Chechnya. He is less flamboyant than his predecessor - but he may prove equally difficult to negotiate with.

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As the new Chechen com-mander-in-chief outlined his olan to journalists at his rebel hideout the citizens of Grozny were in a state of denial. They seemed as reluctant to believe in their leader's death as they are in President Yeltsin's promised, but never-delivered, ceasefire. There was no evidence of the three-day mourning period declared by the Chechen leadership.

In southern villages - the heartland of rebel support groups of elders sat praying.
"I personally don't believe he

is dead," said Nikolai Sambiyev, 44, one of the team of workers clearing up the rubble of the now demolished presidential palace. "If a man dies, everyone

gathers together. But there were only two or three, as if he

were a dog." Behind him three Soviet-era buildozers ploughed through the tangled rums of what was once Dudavey's seat of power "He was the first President. If he was dead, they would have done more."

The general's death was confirmed on the rebel-run presidential TV channel on Tuesday by Shamil Basayev, a top Chechen commander. There have been many lies told in Chechnya, but Grozny's un-

willingness to believe in Dudayev's death is partly rooted in a reluctance to concede any victory to the Russian troops who occupy their city.
At a make-shift market stall, fymisha was convinced the general's death would make no dif-

without him, she said. So, evidently, will the opposition to Russia's presence in this remote republic.

"The soldiers provoke us all the time," she said. "They fire their guns in time with music they hear on their headphones just to inspire fear in us, so that we remain in a permanent state of shock."



Occupational hazard: Torero Emilio Munoz is hooked by a bull's horns during a corrida in Seville yesterday. Munoz, who was not injured, appeared in

America finally agrees on its budget

Seven months and two partial government shutdowns late, Republicans and Democrats have finally agreed a 1996 federal budget, and are sending signals that even in this rancorous pre-election period a longer term balanced budget deal may not after all be out of reach.

Of itself, the spending pack-age agreed on Wednesday evening by White House and Congressional negotiators and ference. The war would carry on which President Bill Clinton will sign as soon as the Senate and House of Representatives have given their approval, does not tackle the root cause of the perennial United States budget deficit - the self-enlarging, seemingly unstoppable "entitlement" programmes of Medicare, Medicaid and welfare

Both sides claim victory and seek to tackle long term deficit, reports Rupert Cornwell in Washington

back, stopgap bills since the original missed deadline of 1 October 1995, has perforce reduced the deficit, which is expected to drop to around \$140bn (£93bn) this year. That figure, the lowest since 1982, represents barely 2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, by international standards an eminently respectable perfor-mance for which both parties

were claiming victory. For John Kasich, the Republican chairman of the House budget committee and often mentioned as a possible vicepresidential running mate for Senator Bob Dole this autumn,

the deal saved \$30bn of spending and "should be celebrated as the biggest downsizing of Washington since World War Two". But the White House could not hide its own satisfaction, insisting that it had fended off truly draconian cuts sought by Republicans and scored major victories on environmental and social programmes.

In purely political terms, the undisputed winner of the bud-get battle of 1996 has been Mr Clinton, who positioned himself throughout as a rampart of reason and moderation against the "extremist" Congress of Speaker Newt Gingrich (and by

extension Mr Dole). The government shutdowns in particular rebounded against the Republicans, reminding ordinary Americans that the "Big Government" they were supposed to despise actually rendered many valuable, even indispensable services.

But if one battle is settled, others are about to open. First and foremost are negotiations for a 1997 budget, due to be completed in just five months' time, but which as the election draws closer may well prove even more gruelling than those belatedly completed this week. Hence the fresh talk of a balanced budget deal. The notion began almost in jest, a challenge casually thrown down by Mr Dole for one-on-one discussions between himself and the President. But the White House instantly accepted, leaving Mr Dole to ponder his next move.

The calculation is delicate. Both sides are committed to balancing the budget by 2002, and the plans they have proposed are not that different. Mr Dole's problem is that to strike an agreement would allow the President to claim a victory. But it would also show that he can live up to his constant campaign promise of being a man who "gets things done". And as he trails Mr Clinton by 15 points in the polls and mutiny starts to rumble in Republican ranks, few gambles can do much harm.

IN BRIEF

Learning to love single currency Brussels - Every citizen from the kindergarten upwards, is to be targeted by a mammoth publicity drive on Europe's future single currency, accord. ing to plans unveiled here yesterday, writes Katherine Butler.

The European Commission detailed how, in the words of the Finance Commissioner, Yves Thibault de Silguy, it would ger people to love their new currency". Cartoons, videos, CD-Roms, newsletters, conferences, public meetings, data banks, a roadshow and the Internet will soon blitz the public.

Khan fields a party

New Delhi — Imran Khan, the former cricket star turned social worker, launched a reform movement that he said "marks the beginning of a battle against corruption and injustice" in Pakistan, writes Thm McGirk.

Ciller faces grilling Ankara — The Former Turkish prime minister, Tansu Ciller. met with party aides to assess their role in the ruling coalition after parliament voted to investigate corruption charges reainst her.

No dirt on Gonzalez

Madrid — Spain's Supreme Court investigator found no evidence to link the outgoing Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez, to a 1980s "dirty war" on Basque separatists.

Bosnia 'killing foes' New York — The Muslim-led Bosnian government has dispatched Iranian-trained commando units to kill or capture its enemies, The New York Times

Drug lord in motion

Bangkok - Burma's surrendered drug lord. Khun Sa. has won the right to operate a bus company but Thai narcotics agents said they feared he would move heroin as well as bus passengers.

General retreats

Asuncion — Paraguay's President, Juan Carlos Wasmosy. said he will not fulfill a promise to make his rebellious army chief, General Lino Oviedo, Defence Minister.

Infidelity expected

Paris -A French poll found more than three-quarters of those asked would not be shocked if President Jacques Chirac or the Queen turned out

Corn makes a meal of Latin love

ANDREW GUMBEL

Forget ginseng and oysters. If you really want to get into an amorous mood over the dinner table, you should stick to plain old com.

That, at least, is the recommendation of an Italian psychiatrist at the University of Geneva, Willy Pasini, who has been writing about food and sex for years. According to his latest research, copiously reported in this month's issue of the glossy magazine Class, there is nothing in the kitchen more sex-

cornmeal mush eaten as a hearty winter filler in the north Italian plains.

Apparently, commeal is unusually low in a hormone called triptophane, which along with a related substance called serotonin usually makes people sleepy after they have eaten. Polenta is thus liable to keep you

up until all hours, in every sense. "Experiments with laboratory rats have shown that a solid maize diet over five days drives the little beasts into a frenzy of copulation, even making them

ually enticing than a big, sloppy forget their sexual orientation." fer: sparkling wine, seafood So does that mean that half

of northern Italy jumps in and out of bed with each other. irrespective of gender, during periods of cold weather? No, explains the professor, who is himself from Milan; humans can only take so much polenta at any one sitting without becoming distinctly antisocial. "In very large doses, maize provokes flatulence." he said.

Professor Pasini, who is also a member of the Italian Cookery Academy, has some more conventional aphrodisiacs to of-

peaches, and chocolate. One more unusual suggestion is frogs legs, which contain safe but suggestive quantities of cantharidin the toxic stimulant most notoriously found in Spanish fly.

But it does not seem such recommendations make much of an impression on would-be Latin lovers, despite the abundance of potions and strange remedies around Italy. Opinion polls show only 5 per cent of Italians even think about aphrodisiacs when planning a ro-

'Flaubert of the kitchens' hangs up his tea towel

In a land where taking food se-riously means taking Delia Smith seriously, it is not easy to understand the excitement that had the whole of Paris trembling like the jellies at an English kiddies' birthday party this week. Joel Robuchon, the world's greatest three-star Michelin chef, had vowed to quit the kitchen when he reached the age of 50. No one believed he would, but this week he did. In the modestly-named "Joel Robuchon" eaterie. Mr Robuchon threw in the tea towel and named his successor. Sensation followed sensation. With one flick of his whisk, he created the world's first six-star chef. "Of France's 35 three-star Michelin chefs, Only Alain Ducasse has the talent to run my restaurant."

Robuchon declared. Ducasse, known as the "other prince of Monte Carlo7, will be keeping his current position as top chef at the world-famous Restaurant Louis XV in the principality, but will combine this with the Paris job. The Joel Robuchon restaurant will be called the Alain Ducasse after Robuchon cooks his "last supper" there on 5 July. The 45 seats among the Nina Campbell decor of the top temple of gastronomy are all spoken for, and as the establishment is booked up three months in advance, it is now too late to reserve a place at one of the hallowed tables.

PEOPLE



Stirring stuff: Joel Robuchon (left) and Alain Ducasse

Most of us will never know what his signature starter, Gelie du Caviar à la creme de choufleur even tasted like. For those of us who think in terms of chipped, boiled, roast, mashed and jacket, we will never even taste in our dreams any of the 100 recipes for the potato, by the man for whom doing things with spuds was an art-form.

The Robuchon clientele will certainly notice a difference when they become the Ducasse clientele. From the time he opened his first restaurant in Paris in 1981, Robuchon used traditional recipes, simple products and the finest ingredients, for which he charged a fortune. His starter alone now comes at 300 francs and the average bill is 1,600 francs per person.

By the purity of his style he became the Flaubert of the kitchens," said Ducasse. In 1995 Robuchon was

awarded the Legion of Honour by François Mitterrand, and there were obvious suspicions that the late president, whose favourite dish was apparently La fameuse tête de cochon was simply making sure he could always get a table. We do not know how pure or

impure the Ducasse style will be, but we do know he is a very different kettle of sardines from Robuchon, Nine years ago, having survived a horrific air crash, Ducasse signed a contract that no other leading French chef dared put his name to. Not only did he agree to create what his employers planned to be one of France's greatest restaurants. He guaranteed to get three stars in the coveted Michelin Guide or lose his job.

At that time, anything that was not Beluga caviar or Dom Perignon champagne was looked on with suspicion by the top eaters. But within two years Ducasse won his three stars with his daring nouvelle-Mediterranean cuisine and at 33 he became the youngest chef in the history of the Michelin Guide to receive the accolade.

As for Robuchon, he will no longer be putting in his cus-tomary 18 hours a day in the kitchen, but he is talking of a new life giving lectures, launching a lunchtime TV programme, commuting every three months to Japan... and continuing his research into the psychology of cuisine.

The Italians sometimes delay I their gratification longer than the French. On 18 April. 1948, a young Italian Communist Party militant called Nilde lotti put a bottle of champagne on ice and listened expectantly to the election results on the radio. But for her, it was a bad night: the Communists lost, the Christian Democrats won, and the champagne remained unopened.

Forty-eight years and three days later, a 76-year-old Mrs Iotti finally got to uncork that bottle as the centre-left Olive Tree coalition celebrated their historic victory over Silvio Berlus-

coni's centre-right last Sunday. She didn't say what the champagne tasted like; one wine expert said it would probably be fine but altered somewhat by resting so long on the shelf. A bit like the Italian Communist Party itself, which has mutated down the decades into an entirely new party.

> Margaret Kemp and James Roberts



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news analysis

A big Little Englander

Sir James Goldsmith is playing for high stakes. And as Paul Vallely reports, with a billionaire's budget at its disposal, his Referendum Party could become a serious contender at the next general election

They are pulling down the shut-ters, metaphorically speaking, at the Hammersmith beadquarters of the Referendum Party. Its founder, Sir James Goldsmith, is off to Paris or Mexico or wherever to join his wife or mistress (he publicly acknowledges both.)Grey will descend again upon the British political scene until this exotic bird of paradise returns for his autumn passage in the season of the party conferences.

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Only the foolbardy would dare underestimate Sir James. This is the man who in 1987 sold most of his companies - just before the Wall Street crash that wiped out many other businessmen. Today he is the eighth richest person in the UK, worth around £1.2bn.

And now he has brought his highoctane brain and well-honed instincts to bear upon the world of politics. Two years ago in France he formed his own party, L'Autre Europe, and won 14 per cent of the vote in elections for the European Parliament. This week his newly formed Referendum Party - which has a single goal: to force the Gov-ernment to hold a referendum on whether the UK should pull out of the European Union - has sent the Tory high command into a spin.

There is some cause for concern. An anti-EU candidate in the Staffordshire South East by-election this month won more than 10 per cent of the Tory party's total votes. If Goldsmith's party - on which he has vowed to spend £20m - replicated that at the general election, where it plans to field some 500 candidates, the Conservatives could lose 30

Sir James's party is gaining momentum. A former Tory party treasurer, Lord McAlpine (a key figure in the pro-Europe campaign in the 1975 referendum on Britain's membership of the Common Market), has pledged support. The right-wing challenger to the prime minister in last year's leadership election, John Redwood, has engaged in a public gavotte with the billionaire this week. And the Sun this week joined the referendum camp with a fullpage editorial that parroted the

Mindful of the impact which businessmen like Ross Perot and Silvio Berlusconi have had elsewhere - the prime minister and the Texas bilthe Government has been forced to respond. After scorn from Lord Archer was brushed to one side. John Major on Wednesday was forced to attack Sir James directly for "living in cloud-cuckoo-land". Yet establishing how real a threat Goldsmith might pose is far from easy. Some reports at the weekend suggested that the only support for the party came from a "Dad's Army"

of elderly xenophobes, blimpish exarmy officers, and other assorted Tufton Buftons. The Goldsmith camp has decided to keep mum on the identity of its candidates, either because that portrait is all too accurate or because they feel that media interest is peaking too early in a campaign that still has a long way to

The party's chief spokesman, former Tory Central Office press officer Michael Gunton, insists that it is the latter. He promises there will be quite a stir when the party unveils its full list of candidates. So far it has announced only one, Professor Alan Walters, whose persistent advice to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher against Britain's entry into a single urrency led to the resignation of Nigel Lawson as Chancellor of the Exchequer. (Walters is to stand for the Referendum Party against Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in his Nottingham seat in the election). But the party claims to have recruited 400 of the candidates it needs to challenge every MP who is not committed to a referendum. And it claims it is putting in place the machinery to support them,

'It could make Conservatives unelectable for a generation. It could destroy the party for ever'

which means supporters' groups to help put up posters, deliver leaflets. The idea for a referendum on Europe was first hatched seven years ago over a bowl of pasta in the home of Christopher Monckton, a former member of Margaret Thatcher's policy unit. Among those around the table in the tiny living room domi-nated by a life-size portrait of Monckton dressed as a Knight of the Roman Catholic order of the Knights of Malta, was Patrick Robertson, the enfant terrible founder of the Bruges Group. It was a good wheeze but not

Four years later Robertson recalled lionaire took a big enough share of the idea and, dressing it up in the vote to help Bill Clinton remove grander regalia, flogged the idea of Mr Bush from the White House - a full-blown referendum party to a powerful backer: Sir James. The Referendum Party was founded in November 1994 with one member

of staff and two secretaries in a small office in Hammersmith. Two years on it has offices on three floors. 20 members of staff, 20,000 supporters and is about to move to Westminster. It has staff specialising in candidate recruitment, research and administration (though unlike most

parties it does not need a fund-raising department.) Its main preoccupation is selecting 100 or so more candidates for the election. It estimates that it will not need to stand against 76 Labour MPs, 47 Conservatives and most Lib Dems, who are already committed to pressing for a

Its candidates have largely been drawn from a database of Euro-sceptics assembled by Monckton from the results of a nationwide telephone poll three years ago. Four full-time interviewers have been touring the country meeting those who responded affirmatively to a letter sent out to 30,000 potential supporters and weeding out those with extreme or unsuitable views. Those selected have then been given training sessions with Gunton on organisation, campaigning and handling

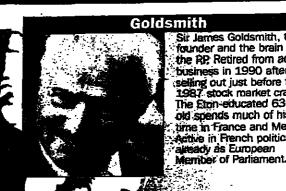
The party's plan, apparently, is to announce the full list of candidates with fanfare at the time of its first public conference, which is timed to take place on 18-19 October, just after the Conservative Party Conference. What is already clear, however, is

that the motives of the motley bunch that has gathered around the party are extraordinarily varied. Yet they are all playing for high stakes. Gold-smith himself - who may fight Europhile minister lan Taylor in Esher does not seem motivated by power as were Perot and Berlusconi but by a consuming conviction that British politicians are in the process of surrendering utterly to an unelected dictatorship of Euro-hureaucrats. Others see in the Europe debate a convenient battleground on which to fight over domestic spoils, particularly the future of the Tory party. Christopher Monckton concedes that the Referendum Party might hand a victory to Labour or turn a Labour victory into a landslide. "It could make Conservative Party unelectable for a generation. It could destroy the party for ever," he admits. But in the split that would follow in a defeated party "those who have no concern with retaining our democracy, the Heseltines and Clarkes who have always been corporatists, will go one way and the vast majority of the Tory faithful will go the other - which of the two factions ends up calling itself the Conservative Party time will tell."

sion of a handful of far-right Conservatives who are losing touch with reality even more swiftly than the rest of their colleagues. But it may just turn out to be the dominant issue of the forthcoming election. The BSE crisis, the predations of Spanish fishermen, and controversial rulings by the European Court of Justice may put electoral flesh on an issue that has hitherto been the preserve only of policy wonks. Only time, as Monckton says, will tell. But make no mistake, they are playing for high stakes indeed.



The team that aims to take us out of Europe



founder and the brain of the RP. Retired from active business in 1990 after selling out just before the 1987 stock market crash. The Eton-educated 63-year old spends much of his time in France and Mexico. Active in French politics teady as European

Duckworth

as formerly the Conservative In Yorkshire, whose MP Spencer Batiste backed Michael Heseltine in the 1990 leadership

Michael Gunton, Chief Press Officer, is also responsible for training RP candidates in campaigning and handling the media. His favoured technique centres around "10 reasons why we need a referendum". He was a Treasury press officer when Nigel Lawson was Chancellor. Later joined Conservative Central Office to complaints from Labour at top civil servants turning political. Quit the Tories over Europe.

Patrick Robertson, personal PR to Goldsmith. Age 27. Boy wonder founder of the Bruges Group (hon. pres. – Mathatcher) which he ran from his college rooms at

Oxford. But its less name supporters resigned and withdrew funding after a series of blundars and actions of the supporters resigned and withdrew funding after a series of blundars and actions of which the supporters resigned and withdrew funding after a series of blundars and them into the out allegations of improper hospitality from the supporters of actions and the supporters of the s

Additional research by Henrietta Norton

Businessmen in politics: how Goldsmith compares



Berlusconi, Forza Italia Organisation: Devoted to the leader; party meetings are rare, and stage-managed to allow maximum homage to be paid to the great man. Glitzy fundraising dinners and TV promotions are more Forza's style.

Membership: The party has never made much effort to recruit; there is a network of national part clubs, but Berlusconi feels that a strong forma membership is not necessary to solicit votes. ididates: In the recent general election, the party fielded candidates in all

constituencies except those in which they had agreements with other parties. Finance: The party's finances seem in good health. Berlusconi is still embroiled in a court case, which led to the fall of the coalition government he headed in 1994, over allegations of bibery. There are limits on election campaign spendng, but Forza Italia's media blitz appears to many to exceed them. fluence: Berlusconi has fingers in many pies - insurance, supermarkets, agency, Publitalia, produces 90 per cent of all the TV advertising.

real estate, and television. He controls three TV stations, and his advertising Political impact: was a vital force in shaking up the old corrupt centre-right establishment in Italian politics with reformist agenda. Has a broader political ambition than Goldsmith's single-issue campaign.



Ross Perot, Reform Party Organisation: Although very much Mr Perot's baby the Reform Party is starting to acquire some life of its own. To this end, a nationwide modem-linked "cyber conference" in September will choose a party leader. In the unlikely event that this is not Mr Perot, he has pledged to step aside. Launched: The Reform Party evolved late last year from United We Stand America, the group which supported Perot's 1992 presidential be

Membership: A network of loyal groups are slowly collecting signatures to allow the party to campaign in all states. Candidates: All effort is devoted to the presidential race. Finance: Perot, a computer billionaire, says he wants to cut the moneymen

out of American politics by spending only his own money. In the last campaign, Perot lightened his wallet to the tune of about \$65m. influence: Perot was at one stage ahead of both Bush and Clinton in the 1992 election race, but currently polls around 12 per cent. His shadow haunts the current presidential race (election in November) because Bob Dole, the Republican candidate, is so weak, Political position: Perot is more like Goldsmith in the sense that he has a

simple anti-Washington message, which focuses on balancing the federal bud get. Shares with Goldsmith an antagonism to free trade.

a towel

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of Latin love

Criminal tendencies

It was, they said, strictly a do for the writers. No squawking PRs, no pompous publishers, just an annual jolly for authors and friends in the mellow 18th century grandeur of a book-

shop on Piccadilly. Hatchards Authors of the Year reception is indeed a rare affair. And the promise of a PR-free zone

clearly works won-ders with our shy wordsmiths. Through the door poured a veritable flood of the great and the good - Harold Pinter, Lady Antonia Fraser, Ludovic Kennedy, David Atten-borough and Ken Russell, pausing only to sign the visitors' book - the single for-

mality of the evening.

So how grand did you need to be, not to bother signing in? As grand a former Cabinet Minister as Lord Jenkins and Kenneth Baker (above) conspicuously declined to write their names.

The signing-in formalities over, guests were slightly startled by the late arrival of two burly uniformed police officers. Could they be the latest hot authors to watch - or were they checking up on their erstwhile bosses' after-hours drinking habits? Nothing of the sort. This, I was told, was Willy - the local PC, book launch habituee, and "the best read policeman in all of London." "Oh," boomed Willy, "I never miss

one of these, nor a book signing. And I always have a chat with the author. I got into a right row with Jeffrey Archer when he was here - terrible, he is. Writes crap. I reckon I should nick him for impersonating a novelist."

Community policing at its finest.

Things could have been worse

Sir Edward Heath has not lost his skill at the one-line or even one-word put

down. In the Commons tea room yesterday, the Conservative MP Alan Duncan was holding court despite his less-than-brilliant performance masterminding the Staffordshire South East by-election. Sir Edward, however, refused to engage in conversation with him, but merely said, "Congrat-

That was followed by ribald laughter all round by Duncan's Tory chums. There was a 22 per cent swing to Labour in Staffs South East.

Just one more rant... Rule number 34b of journalism is never give a writer just one more column, directly after sacking them. They

generally take the chance to say all the wrong things. My old friend Mat Coward, whose schizophrenic activities include humorist with New Statesman And Society, and activist with the Labour Party in Pinner, is not to be part of the new Ian Hargreaves regime at the Statesman. But he is given one last

Stakes are high when luvvie meets bookie Sir Andrew Lloyd

inspiring the occasional music by her spouse, is: also well-known as a racehorse owner. suspect she is the inspiration for Sir Andrew's Really Useful Group taking over-much of the card at Newbury. races on Similar IP May. Thus we find such sponsored races as The Jesus Christ Superstar Rated Stakes, which a spokesman for Newbury chairman Lord Camaryon describes as "a mee touch for Sunday racing."

Webber's wife, Madeleine, as well as

In addition, local school choirs will be trightening choirs will be frightening the horses singing his from the Lloyd Webber octors. The members enclosure will be sections with theatricals and their guests, headed by Sir: Andrew. And Llook. forward to witnessing the culture clash as having meets bookee. The latter, I should warn the Really Useful Group, are not .



transport at the Derby

column in today's edition. And he lets rip, with a non-humorous column in prime position at the front of the journal. Blair and the Blairites "were never Labour. They don't come from Labour families, they don't share Labour values ... they set out to abolish the Labour Party and replace it with an updated version of the Tory party." Not quite the message Ian Hargreaves intends to promote, when he officially

Jazz and the Jackson factor

takes over next week, I suspect.

Playing an instrument is no handicap to getting to the White House as those who have listened politely to President Clinton

and his saxophone will know. But we weren't dropping any bints to Ameripaigner Jesse Jackson when a piece about him here yes-

terday was accompanied by a picture of jazz trumpeter and composer Quincy Jones. It was, as they say in the best jazz and political circles, computer error. Our apologies. The real Jesse Jackson is pictured bere.

Netting a bargain

They're all becoming computer buffs on Humberside. Hull's municipally owned telephone network charges just 5.5p for local calls, regardless of their duration. A fine civic gesture, until you remem-ber that the Internet works on the basis of a local call charge. The Communication Workers Union magazine Voice reports that one local "anorak" staved on line for eight days for his 5-and-a-half

Eagle Eve



On the 28th March, Juillet - one of the last surviving northern white rhinos - was shot, butchered

She was the second rhino to be slaughtered by poachers in the Garamba National Park this year. Tragically, she was pregnant and her unborn calf died

Juillet's death brings the number of northern white rhinos alive in the wild to just 29. Notch, pictured above, is one of the survivors - but for how long? Every day, the poachers move closer to wiping out the entire species. Forever,

The Garamba Rhino Emergency Appears to tackle the problem of poaching, and to protect the rhinos from We're asking every Independent on Sunday reader to support this appeal. £30.00 could keep a specialist surveillance team the air for one more day. Please, help us if you can. The

Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BR

Please send your gift to: Garamba Rhino Emergency Appeal, WWF-UK, FREEPOST, Panda House, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BR Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____ Initials ____ Surname ___

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A government lost in confusion

Privatisation was meant to get gov-ernment out but it keeps on being dragged back into the water industry over the disastrous performance of some of the privatised companies, and into electricity by the wave of mergers that was threatening to sweep through industry. Ian Lang, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was undoubtedly right to block the bids by PowerGen for Midlands Electricity and National Power for Southern

Electricity. But he may well have made the right decision for the wrong reasons, to preempt the Tory right opening up a new front of internal opposition over the Government's commitment to competition. Worse, it leaves competition policy in a mess, the position of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission uncertain and the future shape of the electricity industry hanging in the air.

Despite Mr Lang's unexpected decision, overturning a recommendation made by the MMC, the Government's anxieties over the industry will not go away. As on so many other issues the Government appears caught between two ultimately conflicting views of the world. On the one hand there is its legacy from the 1980s: a belief in competition as the motor of economic efficiency. On the other is the influence of Michael Heseltine's view that we need something called an industrial policy to promote companies we can regard as

national champions. That belief that competition policy should partly attempt to create national champions has too frequently influenced the MMC, under the chairmanship of Graeme Odgers. The ill-fated report on electricity mergers at times seemed to second guess what its authors thought ministers might like to hear.

There is very little "national" about the "champions" these policies seek to create. Leading British companies often turn out to employ more people over-seas than here, and have a stockholder list that starts with addresses in New York and ends with banks in Osaka.

Government regulation of the electricity industry should protect the consumer by promoting competition. The trouble is that the industry is now suspended between two stools. The Government has allowed some integration between power generators and distrib-utors, through Scottish Power's own-ership of Manweb and Lord Hanson's move from electricity distribution into generation. The original model of keeping distributors and generators separate is already corrupted. Yet by blocking the two most recent bids the Government has prevented a new model emerging of an industry dominated by four or five vertically integrated elec-tricity companies.

The electricity companies might be able to survive all this meandering, but the outlook for the regulators is less propitious. Stephen Littlechild, the head of the electricity regulator Offer, looks ever more like what he is - a provincial academic out of his depth in the big league.

He has been undermined both by his own inexperience and the Government's confusion about competition. The role and function of the MMC have also been put in play. At times in the past few years it has seemed the MMC could easily be rolled up into the DTL A restatement of the Government's position on competition is urgently needed. But of course that is the last thing we will get from an administration which veers between two views on most



If what we are hoping for from England in the Euro 96 football championships - only six weeks away - is honourable defeat, then Wednesday's draw with Croatia at Wembley was certainly encouraging. to face reality about Terry Venables' reign as England coach. Many had hoped that regardless of his off-the field travails Venables would revive England after the

dreadful tenure of Graham Taylor. The truth is we are not bad, quite respectable, in fact, but little better than that. We can grind out a draw with the best of them. We can close down the opposition, deny them scoring opportunities, turn a good game into a stalemate. But can we win with any

conviction? Forget it. There were some good things on display at Wembley on Wednesday: the makeshift defence was sound (against an opposition that gave up trying to score); the midfield was disciplined and Paul Gascoigne occasionally creative: Robbie Fowler appears to be a prodigious talent although he missed chances.

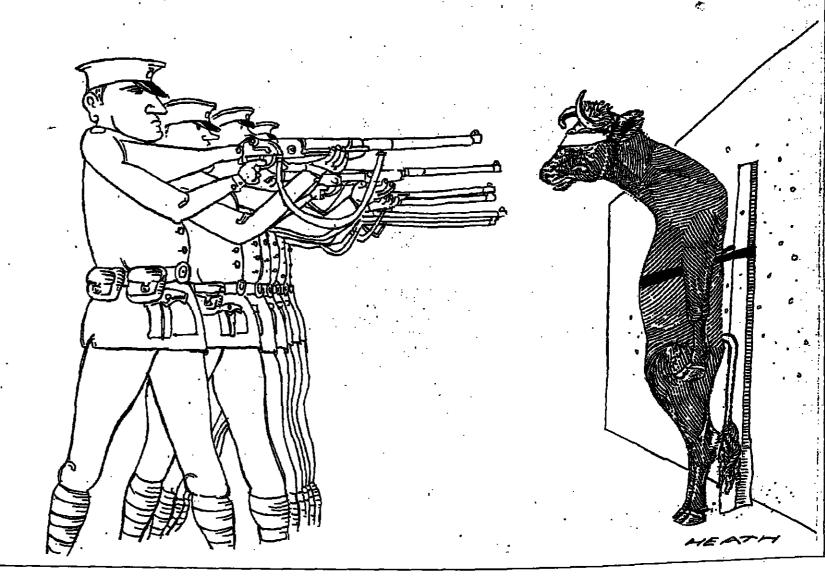
But that piecemeal praise misses the point: Croatia is better prepared for the championships than the hosts. Croatia's skill and sophistication is not simply the product of having a clutch of players with top teams in Europe. Nor were all the good players inherited from the former Communist system in Yugoslavia. They are still

producing them. The real testimony to the depth of Croatia's football culture came on Tuesday night when its under-21 side beat England convincingly. How can it be that a small nation a only a few years old and still recovering from the effects of a bloods civil war in the former Yugoslavia can produce a better youth team than England with all the money that has been pumped into premiership football in the past couple of years?

have an football culture intense enough to overcome the country's material weaknesses. That culture produces players who think their way to victory. Most of the British press joked derisively that Wednesday's game was like a game of chess; that insult in Britain is probably a compliment in Croatia.

It may all come right. Venables may yet pull it off. But it is not looking remotely likely. English football fans have probably been preparing themselves for months for the sense of deflation they will almost certainly feel this summer.

That will leave us with the task of devising an approach to the game, particularly the way it is coached to youngsters, that should give us some hope for the future. It's obvious where that review should start: a serious examination of how countries such as Holland and Croatia, produce young players of such skill, poise and



To die for your country

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Labour's challenge: to win power and keep faith with the poor

Sir: The vital point in Andrew Marr's opening article (22 April) in your series on Tony Blair's polities is to be found in his penultimate paragraph: Will they "really help the poor, or turn their back on them? Is Labour capable of winning and holding

Like many thousands of active Labour Party members I am deeply upset by recent policy changes and hold that the party should stand firm by its long-held aim - to help those in greatest need. We believe that this is the way to win votes too. To ignore or, worse, to injure working people would lose millions of potential voters. Apart from Robin Cook no one in the Shadow Cabinet seems even to mention the poverty class.

Labour should strive to satisfy not just the upper middle class but the far bigger working class as well. Consider the millions dependent on shrinking health services, the unemployed, the pensioners, homeless, the sick and disabled, one-parent families and those employed at sweated wage rates.

Labour should fix a minimum wage of over £4 an hour for the five and a half million earning less; oppose recent proposals to end child allowances for the 16to 18-year olds; plan to build at least 100,000 new houses to rent for the ill-housed; refuse to permit cross-ownership by the big five national newspaper owners and the commercial TV companies; adhere to universal pensions and thus avoid means tests and stop weakening Labour's links with 8 million trade unionists and

Further, they should accept carry out and campaign for the policies decided by our annual That is what democracy means.

Past illusions

The answer is that Croatia seems to

their families.

delegate conference (our supreme policy-making body). FRANK ALLAUN

Sir: Congratulations to Andrew

Marr on a very perceptive review of Tony Blair's new Labour

badly mistaken.

Sir: Polly Toynbee in her analysis of Tony Blair (23 April) suggests that his moralism is "deep-dyed Victorian". What is Victorian about believing in a welfare state, as he clearly does, but none the less coupled with a belief in personal responsibility?

Blair's moralism

("Tony Blair's Victorian values", 23 April). The traditional divide of left

and right, a legacy of the French Revolution that has remained

with us for over 200 years, is now

largely a thing of the past. Today

the debate is about who can best

manage British capitalism. If

nothing else, at least the Labour

leader has been refreshingly hon-

est in his pitch to the captains of

industry that he can run the

economy better than the present

ing after the next general elec-

tion. For its part the left desper-

ately clings to the hope that

somehow a Labour victory will

rekindle people's socialist aspi-

rations and herald a new period

of political radicalism. Both are

What is required is the begin-

nings of a real debate to clarify

the meaning of anti-capitalist

politics in the new millennium.

One thing hasn't changed: capi-

London N19

talism still doesn't work.

government.

stanc

New Labour seem much better placed to drive through the austerity measures and attacks on The vast majority of this country the working class necessary to still believe in both. Polly Toynrevive a very sick economy. No bee's article concludes that Touy doubt these measures will be Blair speaks not only to the elecpresented in the language of tors but to God. Perhaps her analysis is flawed by her failure to rights and responsibilities", take advantage of that second being touted at present. It is striking how both the Tories and the left are united in

line of communication. MICHAEL FOSTER the illusion that the patterns of St Leonard's-on-Sea, the past will recur. The Tories try East Sussex The writer is prospective Labour parliamentary candidate for Hastto strike fear into the hearts of middle England, warning that old Labour lurks behind Blair's ings and Rye façade and that the trade unions on the left will come out of hid-

Talk of taxes

Sir: I well remember an article by Gavva Davies published in the Independent a couple of months before the last election. Somewhat against the tide of newspaper opinion, he provided a list of solid reasons to back the sensible intuition that victory for the Conservative Party was still by far the most probable outcome.

In his article on 22 April he provided even stronger reasons to believe that the next election is KEVIN KELLEY Labour's for the taking. However, he noted that loose talk on tax might still produce a shock

defeat, is this likely?

There are at least two good reasons to believe that the tax issue will be neutralised at the next election. First, unlike 1992, there will be no silly Shadow Budget before the election and hence no concrete proposals for the Tories to attack. Second, Conservative Party propaganda

Tomorrow in the Independent Tony Blair responds to our series

on tax has lost credibility following the 1993 tax-raising Budget. In particular voters seem more sensitive to the shift that has occurred away from direct to indirect taxation - an awareness aided by the furore over VAT on

Of course ill-disciplined public remarks would be unwise. But with such a tangible electoral advantage for Labour, surely Gavyn Davies overplays the risks.

JAMES KNIGHT St John's College Oxford

Celebrate diversity Sir: I would make two points on new Labour and equality ("Left

behind", 25 April).

Labour believes in equality of opportunity, evidenced by our ins to prioritise training and education, to protect employment rights, to tackle homelessness and poverty, and to encourage business and enterprise to invest and think long-term. But Labour has never believed in equality of outcome, where everyone ends up the same. Socialism celebrates diver-

sity, not conformity. Secondly, the way to improve equality of opportunity is to create growth in the economy, smash the vested interests which hamper individual advancement, and to reward hard work, not redistribute wealth through direct taxes to pay for increased benefits. Unemployment must be tackled at its source: through investment in skills and new technology, not ameliorated by an ever-expanding welfare bill. Increased government spending on welfare payments is a sign of economic failure, not a totem of success.

The writer is prospective Labour par-liamentary candidate for Billericay

Policy makers

Sir: The article by John Rentoul ("Brown talks tough on tax", 24 April) perhaps accidentally underlines the foolishness of most contemporary attitudes towards politics and politicians. Far from sympathising with the leaders of the two current largest parties, an averagely intelligent reader can have nothing but

THE INDEPENDENT - FRIDAY 26 APRIL 1996.

scorn for the assumptions made. Fustly, who makes policy? A political party is not, contrary to increasing assumptions, a business with a managing director. It is an organisation of fairly like minded people combining in association to promote their ideas; it is not a tribe, to gather behind a "leader" and obey on a keep quiet or be banished" basis.

This happened during the 1980s to the Tory party under the leadership of Margaret Thatcher to the private dismay of several Conservative associates of mine Now identically, Labour friends are being forced to be quiet and prevented at a local and national level from raising genuine ques tions of great importance.

Of course Clare Short is right to raise the question of taxes for the higher paid. Of course, equally, so is Kenneth Clarke right to make the question of Europe central to our country's future.

Why do we allow our appointed representatives to be subjected to the absurd control of the whips. If we the voters are not allowed to have our chosen representatives dare to discuss the things such as taxation, education, the health service, the Common Market - of great importance to us what value is there in Parliament?

It is highly unlikely that some 250 MPs are going to think in an identical way. The diversity should be gloried in - as enriching the national stock of political ideas. Policy needs to be decided by the will of the majority - not by "think tanks" or "kitchen cabinets".

Mrs Thatcher destroyed many good Conservative thinkers in the 1980s, as well as much of the real economic and social life of the country. Why should we, the public, stand by and see either Tony Blair or John Major do likewise in the 1990s?

Trapped in the

Granby Triangle

Sir: Your article ("Gunfire across

the Mersey", 23 April) claiming

violence comes only from a

minority did little to console those of us trapped within the

Granby Triangle. It only takes

one bullet to kill, and that.

'minority" is large, and growing.

The juveniles, youths and

young adults not only will inherit

this mantle but cannot wait to do

so. Recently we aborted several

attacks on pensioners by 10-year-

olds wielding baseball bats. They

are only a couple of years away

from shooting a gun. And as for

"future" acceptance of violence, the apathy here could kill as surely

as a bullet. I'm told "it is no dif-

ferent anywhere". If I thought this were true I wouldn't wait for the

JULIE CARTER

Liverpool

gunmen; I'd do it myself.

DAVID PALMER Portsmouth

Just me, myself and them, as it were

The success of Edward on Edward, the TV programme that Prince Edward has just made about his great-uncle, the Duke of Windsor, has inspired many more along the same lines, all due to appear in the near future, and I am pleased now to bring you details of just a few of them.

Charles on Charles

A TV spectacular in which Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, looks at his predecessor Charles II and doesn't much like what he sees. "Oh dcar, oh dear, oh dear, oh dear," runs part of his commentary. "It's very easy to sit in France for a few years, as Charles did, and criticise everything that is going on in England, rather as my great-uncle the Duke of Windsor did, but is it really very helpful? I think not. I think it might have been more dignified if Charles had just kept quiet in exile.

Of course. Charles II was also accused of collaborating with the enemy, Louis XVI, just as Edward was accused of being a toady to Hitler, but it's very easy to sit here in England and criticise everything that's going on abroad. Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear.... No wonder he had his head cut off." Not only is Charles on Charles said to be heavy going, but he may have been mixing up his Charleses.



MILES KINGTON

Anne on Anne An unusual documentary in which Princess Anne looks at Queen Anne's little-known involvement with children, wildlife preservation and showjumping.

Malcolm on Malcolm

Malcom Rifkind takes a fresh look at King Duncan's son, Malcolm, who was forced to flee Scotland when Macbeth murdered his father and seek aid from the English. "I think one can sympathise with Malcolm," says Rifkind.

"There he was, in a foreign capital, trying to get the best possible deal for his own country with very little bargaining power, and with a Scottish accent which must have sounded very tired and strangled

after years spent abroad. "Well, I can sympathise with that, Arthur on Arthur
"What a geezer!" says Arthur Smith in

this sensitive portrait of King Arthur.
"Always losing his sword and having to nick one! Sometimes he'd claim he'd taken it out of a stone, sometimes he'd say a hand clad in white came out of a lake waving it.... Well, all I can say is that if I came up in court today accused of nicking a sword and I said I'd got it from a hand in a lake, I'd be sent for further psychological study, and quite right, too, I say...."

Diana on Diana For several hours, we are told in the

Bible, the inhabitants of Ephesus ran about crying "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!", and nobody could stop their idolatry. Princess Diana wonders what kind of an effect this must have had on Diana, what a body blow this must have dealt to a sensitive, shy young goddess, and she spends a lot of time telling us. Martin Bashir plays a walk-on part as a scribe, while Duke Hussey is seen in the background at one point as a Christian protesting against all the licence-payers' money being spent on a mere goddess, but he is swept away to a horrible death.

Victoria on Victoria A praiseworthy attempt by Victoria Wood to break out of her northern goes on like that for a long time.

frame of reference and treat a wider. historical subject. When Julie Walters as Queen Victoria says to Gladstone, "Here, Bill, if the sun never sets on the British Empire, how the bloody hell does anyone ever get to sleep? ...
you know it is going to be a portrayal of the Great Queen not like any other. The scene where Victoria breaks out of her years of mourning for Albert by popping down the local Tesco at opening time in disguise to get a bottle of Wincarnis is very touching, though Robbie Coltrane as John Brown is perhaps a touch too lecherous for a Bafta award.

Stephen on Stephen

Stephen Fry's portrait of King Stephen, last Norman king of England, will be too subtle for those of us who know nothing about King Stephen. Did they really have lots of country house parties in 13th-century England attended by Queen Matilda (Emma Thompson), Prince Henry (Kenneth Branagh), and lots of hangers-on (Tony Slattery)? Well, maybe so.

Jean-Paul on Jean-Paul "Mon dieu, 'e 'ad no idea 'ow to dress. Simone de Beauvoir 'ad a lot to answer for ... These are the opening words of Gaultier on Sartre. It

Crucial role of good parents

Sir: Your leading article "Defeating the class enemy" (24 April) makes a number of useful observations. There is, however, one crucial omission that will bring despair to many teachers - there is no reference to the crucial role that parents play in the behaviour of disruptive children.

This is not to say that Richard Wilding's parents bear any responsibility for his behaviour; that is not something you nor I are qualified to comment upon. However it is unfortunately true that in the majority of instances where a child is expelled from a school, parenting or, more exactly, lack of parenting has played a crucial role.

Fatherly status

Sir: I can empathise with G M

One of the problems of the "liberal conscience" and the present-day reality of two working parents is that few people are prepared to acknowledge the central role that parents play in child's welfare and a child's behaviour.

Neglected, hurt, brutalised children behave badly. It is unjust that the teaching profession should, first of all be expected to pick up the pieces and crucially, where your leader is concerned. that no acknowledgement be made of the impossible role that teachers are forced to adopt.

NIGEL ÉVANS London W4

Jones's letter (24 April) and his views on society's unfair attitudes to the relative worth of mothers and fathers. But losing the immediate and continuous presence of a child neither relieves the father of his responsibilities nor, thankfully, of the benefits and pleasures associated with his status.

TOM RUSSELL Sleaford, Lincolnshire

Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone

number, (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk)

Favourite sons

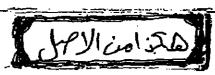
Sir: In response to the raging debate (Letters, 24 April) about Walthamstow's most illustrious offspring, neither William Morris nor William Penn is in the running. Anyone on Walthamstow High Street could tell you that Walthamstow's most famous sons are the pop band East 17.

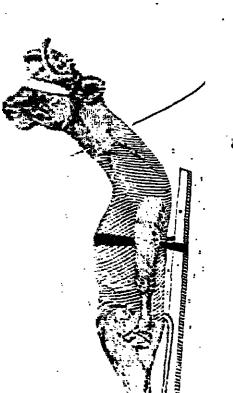
JILL PHYTHIAN SHELLEY SHENKER Walthamstow, London E17

Patriot abroad

Sir, I would have greater regard for Sir James Goldsmith's protestations of concern for this country's interest if he showed more inclination to live here. As Andrew Marr says (23 April) a "reviled outsider" - but in more ways than one.

D L ALLEN Stroud, Gloucestershire





TTOR.

faith with the poor

Treport in the

CAPADON TRAINE

April 40 Comments

للمراث فينتها

Champions of marriage should back me

Following this week's Commons defeat, the architect of the Divorce Bill replies to his critics

With headlines such as "Divorce bill defeated by rebel Tories" dominating yesterday's newspapers, readers could have been forgiven for thinking that the Family Law Bill had suffered a truly estastrophic setback. When the dust has settled, the truth will. I hope, become clear. The effect of the amendment, passed on a

free vote, is that the period of reflec-tion and consideration required in the Bill before a divorce is granted will be extended by six months where one of the couple applies to the court for further time to reflect, or where there are children of the marriage under the age

I have always said that the length of the period for reflection is a matter of fine judgement which raised issues of conscience and would be subject to a free vote. The particular length of time was never central to the reforms. The principle is that there should be a period of reflection and consideration. That still remains at the core of the Bill. The really important decision that has been made by Parliament is that

this principle, of a period of reflection, should replace the current system, which I believe does nothing to save marriages.

At present, people are required to allege fault, whether adultery or unreasonable behaviour, to obtain a quick divorce. The median time for a divorce is currently seven months, but it can be granted in as little as

These allegations of fault may be

Couples will be given full information about what divorce involves

true, but because divorces are not often contested, they are rarely examined in detail. So the main role of these allegations in the divorce process is to provide couples with a speedy exit from the marriage, often before they have made adequate future living



arrangements, or often even fully considered whether a divorce is what the wo of them really want.

Whatever the rights and wrongs in the marriage might be, nobody has ever advanced the argument that a divorce based on one spouse alleging fault about the other has ever done anything to rescue the marriage. The real effect of such a system is to increase acrimony and bitterness for all concerned, and that includes the children. The additional effect is to enable a person who has been guilty of adultery to remarry much more quickly than a person whose behaviour has been entirely taultless,

The system proposed in the Fam-ily Law Bill gives couples the opportunity to pull back from a process that has fault and recrimination at its core. It encourages them to look to the future, and to think hard about what the real implications of a divorce would be for themselves and their

For the first time, couples that are considering divorce will be given full information about what divorce

Legislators have to make the best of an imperfect world

involves. They will be encouraged to resolve their problems face to face through mediation rather than through the often acrimonious exchange of letters between their respective solicitors. And, if the mediator feels there is a prospect that a marriage can be saved, The writer is Lord Chancellor

mediation will cease and the couple will be referred to a marriage counsellor, who may even be able to help them rescue their relationship.

If the marriage cannot be saved, then I believe that the Bill's framework will make it far more likely that the couple can make future living arrangements in a way that will enable any children involved to retain the best possible relationship with both parents after divorce.

I would greatly prefer it if all mar-riages were happy, and that divorce never happened. However, I do not have a magic wand. As legislators, we have a duty to make the best of what is often an imperfect world, and to introduce laws that are framed for people as they are, rather than as we would like them to be. That is why believe that the Family Law Bill represents a real opportunity to improve the divorce laws, and as such, deserves the support of all those who claim to champion marriage and family life.

Nursery crimes? Not guilty

Working mothers should not feel ashamed - quality day care can benefit children, argues Fran Abrams

If some people are to be believed, some of Britain's best-educated. most highly motivated parents are irrevocably damaging their children by sending them to school before they are out of nappies. This week, Paddy Holmes, an independent school headteacher, warned that youngsters were being treated "like young animals, staving with their mothers only as long as they are biologically dependent" The emotional development of these children could be stunted by isolation from their mothers at so young an age.

Coming at a time when the number of under-fives in education and day care is rising, this might seem more than a little surprising. The proportion

In a US study, nursery children were five times less likely to become delinquent

of two-year-olds in prep schools went up by 27 per cent last year and the Government has promised education for all four year-olds. Almost 50 per five now have jobs compared with just 35 per cent in 1987.

It is not surprising, then, that Mrs Holmes' comments caused something of a furore, sparking deep anger among parents - no one wants to hear that they are not bringing up their children properly - and heated comment from traditionalists who would like to a carer and with parents, for example. see more women in the home. But if her warning is well-founded, there are grave implications for the future well-

being of many thousands of children. Mrs Holmes backed her case by quoting the classic theory of emotional attachments developed more than 40 years ago by Dr John Bowlby, confirming children's deep-seated need to bond with their mothers. However, she did not add that Bowlby later revised his theory to include any stable relationship with an adult. Nor did she mention that subsequent research confirmed children's ability to form more than one such attachment - with



Happy days: but critics say very young children should not be sent to nurseries

positive advantages to taking chil-

The debate on whether working mothers are harming their children may continue in the press but in the academic world there is little disagreement. A comprehensive review of the evidence published recently in the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry concluded that two yearolds are unlikely to suffer harm from day care. That said, some studies suggested that children of less than a year who spent more than 20 hours a week in day care might not develop as fast. But even these suggestions remained

unproven, the review said.

dren out of the home, particularly for those from deprived backgrounds who may suffer from cramped conditions and a lack of stimulation. A US study showed that after a good nursery education, young people were five times less likely to become delinquent and three times more likely to own their

own houses when they grew up.
The key word here is "quality". The experts say that very young children need a high staffing ratio, a quiet environment and plenty of space so that they are not crowded. It is also vital that they build lasting relationships, In fact, it concluded, there could be and the best nurseries have a "key

worker" system so that each child knows who to turn to in moments of insecurity.

There is a question mark over the quality of care young children are now receiving. The National Children's Bureau has just launched a three-year research project aimed at developing good training for nursery staff. Its authors say child care often fails to reach a sufficiently high standard, with many nurseries having a high staff turnover. It is difficult for children to form the close ties they need with either adults or children, they say, because they may see different people

places for the very young. They are exempt from the Children Act, which says there must be a member of staff for every three under-threes, and they are not subject to the feur-yearly inspections which comparable state schools receive. Many parents are aware of these

Ironically, the nursery departments of the prep schools that Mrs Holmes

represents may not always be the best

shortcomings and yet they continue to send their children to such schools and nurseries in ever-greater numbers. This is not because they are uncaring or even because they do not want to spend time with their children, but because they have little choice. The need to work and pressure from employers play a large part in their decisions. Fathers work an average of 47 hours per week and, although women are more often part-time workers, they may have to leave their

children in nurseries for long periods. Given the chance, people do choose to spend more time with their children. In Sweden, where both mothers and fathers share a total of 15 months' paid leave when they have a child, the number of babies in nurseries has dropped from 3,000 in 1975 to just 200 today. Although there is high-quality care available, children in Sweden months of age. And when parents do return to work, they take advantage of employers' more sympathetic attitudes and spread the load between them, so that most children spend only six or seven hours per day in care. In Britain, the natural desire of parents to spend more time with their young children is frustrated because the workplace is so much less supportive.

Paddy Holmes's poorly argued comments this week will only have compounded that frustration, by feeding on fears that children are damaged by being in nursery care. She picked the wrong target. The research does not bear out these fears. Ms Holmes would have been wiser, instead, to attack the real problem: the unwillingness on the part of the Government and employers to foster a working world that would allow parents to do what most quite clearly want to do: care for their young children themselves.

We're on a road to nowhere

Politicians should be educating the public about the consequences of the growth in traffic, says John Adams

Great news! Things may get worse more slowly. That is the limited ambition of yesterday's Transport Green Paper, a policy document that promised so much but has delivered little.

The disappointment that many will feel is in direct proportion to the time and consideration that has gone into finding solutions for the massive anticipated rise in road traffic in the next few years. The Government has spent a year and a half pondering ideas put forward by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (which had itself spent a similar period studying the issue). Brian Mawhinney has had his "Great Debate". Yet. what, at the end of all this, did the Government produce yesterday? Weasel words, plans to consult further and a fudge on

all the key issues.

A glance at the Green
Paper's most significant conclusions demonstrates how ministers have missed an opportunity. The proposals are indeed modest: better co-ordination of trunk-road planning and regional land-use planning; more powers for councils to manage traffic; promotion of bus use; new strategies for walking and cycling: talks between industry and the CBI to reduce transport intensity.

Yet, far and away the most important issue – car traffic – is inadequately tackled. This growth is making congestion and pollution worse, undermining public transport, pro-moting land-use sprawl, and making life more dangerous. restricted and unpleasant for all those without cars. So long as this growth continues, the Government's other relatively minor measures will be futile. Ministers know this: in every consultation exercise the Goverument has conducted, it has been strongly urged to set a national traffic target, to come clean about how much traffic it thinks the country can take. Yet this is the Green Paper's considered response: "There is a need for more focused debate on national targets. The Government will consider the need for further analysis."

Although the Government fic target, it does have a forethat traffic will double by 2025. Such a figure - the implications of which are huge - demands leadership. Yet that is precisely what the Government - and Labour – is not giving.

Most politicians in Britain still believe that to lead a camownership would be to commit political suicide. They are probibly right. Most voters, if asked whether they would like a car, answer "yes". The Government's Environment White Paper of 1991 "welcomes the continuing widening of car ownership as an important aspect of personal freedom and choice". This welcome has not been retracted. Environmentally aware Labour supporters should not smirk. The Labour Party, in its environmental policy, "In Trust for Tomorrow", says, "We would like to see

more people owning cars."

So what would a political party that aspired to get enough votes to form a government do?

'Would you like to live in a dirty fume-filled greenhouse?'

It should ask a different question. "Would you like to live in a dirty, dangerous, congested, bleak, socially polarised, fumefilled greenhouse?" Politicians have a duty to explain to the voters what they are voting for. No more research is needed. The consequences of allowing the Government's "best assess ment" about traffic levels in 2025 to come true are already known in sufficient detail. What s need to more education of he public about the realities.

No one is better qualified for this task than the Secretary of State for Transport. In 1973, Sir George Young set out his concerns about the growth of tourism in a book, Tourism: Blessing or Blight?. He recognised that the tourist industry could not grow indefinitely; there would come a point when its costs would outweigh its benefits. He engaged in exactly the sort of educational exercise that is needed even more urgently now.

He argued: "Those who [seek to curb the growth of tourism] for the long-term benefit of society ... will stand accused of mans ireedom id does not have a national traf- travel. Such a criticism is shortsighted as it ignores the damage cast. Its "best assessment" is that unrestrained tourist development can cause and assumes that no price for freedom on movement can be too high."

Just add car traffic to tourism and you would have a credible transport policy statement.

The writer is a reader in geograpaign against increased car phy at University College London.

Let's keep our eyes on the Swedes

Europe's biggest welfare state is in trouble. How it copes could hold lessons for the rest of us

Leconomy is growing and the city seems as clean, shining and prosperous as ever - yet people are concerned. Some, like the journalists, are so concerned that they are out on strike, but all Swedish wage-earners are finding that their living standards are being squeezed by higher taxation and a shading back of the resources available for public services.

The Swedish model of the welfare state is in trouble, and how the decent. left-of-centre Social Democrats now in power cope with this problem may carry a message for the rest of Europe. For while the pressures on the Swedish welfare system are the pressures on other European welfare systems writ large, so too is the ability of Sweden. with its excellent education and its social cohesion, to cope with these pressures.

The size of the Swedish state sector relative to the rest of the economy is almost as large as that of Britain's in the middle of the Second World War. One-third of all workers are employed by the state; about 60 per cent of GDP passes through the state system. Most of the additional employment created by the state has been for women, and a high proportion of women work even by Scandinavian standards.

But the Swedish birth rate is also the highest in Europe. In fact Sweden is the only European country where the birth rate is above replacement rate. A high proportion of women working and high birth rates are

It is early spring in Stockholm. The leconomy is growing and the city seems as clean, shining and prospersus about 90 per cent of the cost of day-care. So women work, earning money to pay the taxes that then fund the wages of other women who look after their children. The household sector of the economy, the things which in other countries are done informally in families, has been made into an economic transaction. One Swedish economist, Assar Lindbeck, said that Sweden had "nationalised the family".

But if Swedish people want to do

this, why shouldn't they? If they are prepared to pay the taxes, then that

One economist said Sweden had nationalised the family

would seem to be their choice and they should carry on. The pat answer is that, whatever people say to reseachers, when it comes to voting, they vote for lower

taxes. But that is not really true in Sweden. Taxes are certainly very high -VAT at 25 per cent; petrol 80 pence a litre: top income-tax rates, with local taxes, about 58 per cent. But my strong impression here is that, while people in the business community complain, there is general political support for the high-tax/high-spend system. People feel they get value for



their tax money. And top tax rates

have come down, so that they are now lower than in neighouring Denmark. True, there is a tax shortfall at present. The Swedish budget deficit is now 7.5 per cent of GDP, and the plan to get this down to the 3 per cent Maastricht limit by 1997 looks shaky. The draft budget for next year was published last week and was the familar mix of tax increases and trims and tucks to spending. Living standards will continue to be squeezed, people will try to offset that by demanding higher wages, and some of those who are disappointed will respond by going on strike. But the problem seems to me to be less one of taxation or political will, but rather one of the distortions to the economy that the

tax/spend regime causes. One distortion from the tax system is that it discourages the formation of new companies, another that it discourages increased employment by established ones. With the exception of Ikea and Tetra Pak, all the famous names of Swedish industry are old. Volvo, Ericsson, Scania were all built up before the rapid growth of the state

sector, which really gathered pace in the 1960s. The big companies are wonderful, but they will not create much new employment. Indeed, the Swedish private sector employs no more people now than it did in 1960. Unemployment, if you add in government makework schemes, is over 12 per cent. This is naturally deeply alarming to the young, well-educated people coming on to the job market for the first time.

So what will happen? Ask the sophisticated people in the financial services sector and they say that the economic need for change is clear, but the perception of that need for change has yet to sink in. So the country faces

There is general support for a high-tax/ high-spend system

some more years of disappointment. It will be trimming, chipping and taxing. That is a gloomy prospect because the underlying financial equation will become more adverse. As the population of Sweden, like that of the whole of Europe, ages, further resources will have to be switched into care for the old. Quite unfairly, the value for money offered by the state will appear to diminish, not because of any fall in efficiency, but simply because there will be fewer people paying money in, and more people taking it out.

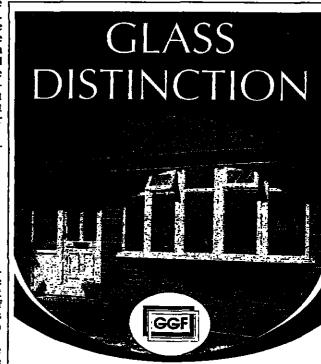
there were more encouraging signs. Here are five. One is the new Prime Minister, Goram Persson, who not only understands the problems of public finances but also understands the need to tell voters a story: to explain and to teach.

Another is that these voters are wonderfully educated right across the population. If things are properly explained, there is a thoughtful and cohesive audience.

A third is a growing appreciation of the need for personal savings. Swedish savings are very low at every level. A banker friend, who has just co-authored a book on the significance of global savings in the world economy found, when it was launched this week, that many of the questions were about personal savings in Sweden. People are saying that as they cannot be sure they will be able to rely on the state in 25 years, they should start

to make some provision now. Next, Sweden has excellent banks and insurance companies that will be eager to develop ways of supplementing the state welfare system if that is what the customers want. The financial infrastructure is there.

And finally Sweden is, after the US and the UK, the most successful exporter of pop music in the world. This shows not only that the spirit of entrepreneurship is alive and well, despite the barriers put in the way of the growth of small businesses: it also shows that Sweden can develop new service sector exports, and in one of the Viewed from outside, though, I felt fastest-growing fields of world trade.



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Robert Hersant

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Though not as well known in the UK as Rupert Murdoch. Robert Maxwell or Silvio Berlusconi, in his native France Robert Hersant was the media mogul par excellence. "I'm neither Citizen Kane nor Randolph Hearst. I own no mines, no factories, no oil companies. I am

only a press baron," he said. Yet, from humble beginnings as the creator of Auto-Journal, he built the Hersant Press Group, which controlled many of France's leading national (Le Figaro, France Soir) and recional dailies (Le Courrier de I Ouest, Le Progrès-Lyon-matin). giving him an undemocratic 30 per cent share of the market there. He also showed an amazing resilience and ability to reinvent himself in a political career which saw him flirting with the extreme right in the Second World War and later backing François Mitterrand's early presidential bid (in 1965) before rejoining the rightof-centre UDF and becoming member of the European

Parliament. Born in Vertou (Loire-Atlantique) in 1920, this son of a Breton captain did not answer the call of the sea. At the age of 13, he was already designing mock lay-outs for newspapers. He studied in Le Havre and Rouen where he met the influential right-winger Jean Lecanuet, who was the town's mayor. At the age of 16, Hersant became secretary-general of the socialist youth of the Normandy area. He then fell in with the Front Populaire and, during the Nazi occupation, gravitated towards the Vichy regime. launching Jeune Front, an anti-Jewish and anti-freemason

organisation. From the Dreyfus affair to Petain's collaborators and Le Pen's recent outbursts, there has always been a pernicious anti-Semitism in some corners of French society and the young Robert certainly added to it at the time, setting up Jeunes Forces. a publication singing the praises of Marshal Petain, and writing in Pilori, a weekly magazine supposedly "fighting

When the Liberation came. Hersant was himself pilloried and condemned to 10 years of national indignity, a sanction reserved for French people who had collaborated with the enemy. Following an amnesty four years later, Hersant could enter public life again.

While compiling a car annual, he spotted a gap in the French magazine market and in 1949 he launched Auto-Journal, which targeted car-owners enjoying their first taste of the open road. The publication was an unqualified success (its circulation increased tenfold to 300,000 in the space of three years) and set him on the road to greater riches. In 1952, Hersant started the daily Oise-Matin, which gave him a platform to get back into The following year, he became mayor of Ravenel and,

in 1956, he stood for parliament in the Oise department; under the wing of President Pierre Mendès-France and François Mitterrand's UDSR (Union Démocratique et Socialiste de la Resistance), he was duly elected. For different reasons, both Hersant (an advocate of the free market) and Mitterrand shared a dislike of General de Gaulle's dirigiste tendencies and in 1965, Hersant provided fi-nancial backing for Mitterrand's first bid for the French presidency. Though unsuccessful, this cheeky attempt forced de Gaulle to fight a second round and established Mitterrand as a politician of national stature, and, after two more setbacks, he eventually entered the Elysée in 1981.

By then Hersant, who hadonce been quite happy to take advantage of the Communist vote to get re-elected under the aegis of Mitterrand's FGDS (Fédération de la Gauche Démocratique et Socialiste), had moved across to Valery Giscard D'Estaing's UDF (Union Democratique Française), on the

He was out of favour with the Oise electorate between 1978 and 1986 but was back at the National Assembly for two

years after that. In 1984, he became a Member of the European Parliament, achieving the dubious honour of one of the most dismal attendance records in Strasbourg (a survey showed he had turned up just 10 times in 284 days, and unkind critics muttered about his need for parliamentary immunity).

However, this rather sketchy political career, worthy of a Vidkun Quisling, was eclipsed by Hersant's many business achievements. In 1955, following the launch of Oise-Matin, Hersant started L'Equipement Ménager and Le Quincailler and capitalised on France's consumer boom of the late Fifties. He then set up the Publiprint press agency and, in 1958, he began acquiring French newspapers left, right and centre. This soon earned him the nickname of "Papivore" (a pun on carnieater) as he ruthlessly cut jobs, at one time merging four regional titles to create Centre-Presse. Over the next 35 years, the Hersant strategy paid off as his Socoress and Groupe France-Antilles companies bought Paris-Normandie, Le Dauphiné Libéré, Le Courrier de L'Ouest. Le Progrès Lyon-matin and Les Dernières Nouvelles

d'Alsace.
The French are not keen newspaper readers (the biggest sellers barely reach the 500,000 mark), but the regional press is far more important in France than in the UK. However, Hersant's increasing grip on the market soon obliterated any semblance of diversity and was never properly brought to book under France's press monopoly laws, even though the combined readership of all his titles

nudged 3 million. This might have had something to do with the press baron's purchase in 1975 of Le Figuro, a Paris (and thus national and influential) paper which had moved a long way right from its satirical origins and was badly in need of new blood and an injection of cash. Always one for cost-cutting, Hersant moved the paper further to the right and away from



Hersant: from 1958 he began acquiring French news saming the nickname 'Papivore', a pun on camivore and papier

its expensive Champs-Elysées premises. He also set up regional presses to improve distribution and take on the regional competition head on.

Over the years, and taking a leaf out of the British press, he added sections and supplements like Figaro Magazine, Madame Figaro. Le Figaro Economie, Le Figaro Littéraire, Figaroscope, TV Magazine and, just recently, Le Figaro Multi-media. In 1976, Hersant tightened his hold over the Paris market with the purchase of L. Aurore and France-Soir, which

screaming headlines and sensationalistic pictures, this popular paper always rose to the British tabloids' Frog-baiting.

There were ill-fated moves into radio and television, especially an attempt with Silvio Berlusconi to establish a fifth French terrestrial television channel, La Cinq. The two men never saw eye to eye and their venture only lasted from 1987 to 1990 and was an unqualified fiasco (game shows galore) which wouldn't have passed a British-style quality threshold.

The early Nineties saw Herprofitable magazines (including became a Sun-like counterpart sant concentrate on his press his beloved Auto-Journal) to Académie Française who was at to his Figuro/Times. With its empire and take full advantage the conglomerate Emap. His Le Figuro when Hersant bought

of new printing and computing broken up. technology. He looked abroad, acquiring a stake in the Brussels daily Le Soir and also

public and Hungary. However, Hersant's reliance on bank loans to finance his takeovers left his group exposed (with reported debts of 6 billion francs) and, when the circulation of some of his papers started to dwindle, he had to sell 10 of his more

investing in Poland (Rzesc-pospolita, the "Republic", the first Polish daily), the Czech Re-

A keen admirer of Lord

Beaverbrook, Robert Hersant was a pragmatist and claimed he was just giving readers what they wanted. He didn't interfere in the daily running of Le Figaro and France-Soir, which leant to the right, but the hagiographic tributes in Monday's and Tuesday's editions of the papers left a yawning gap where his shameful war record should have been exposed.

Jean D'Onnesson, a French intellectual and member of the

empire is now likely to be the paper and became a friend, remembers him "not as a newsman who owned newspapers but as a media entrepreneur. He had a very powerful press group and he considered newspapers as a business."

Robert Hersant's death marks the end of an era. Hopefully, a more pluralist French newspaper industry will rise from his ashes.

Pierre Perrone

Photograph: AFF

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Robert Joseph Emile Hersant, publisher and politician: born Venou, France 31 January 1920; married (eight children); died

Photograph: AP

ral Tran Van Tra in 1973: one of the most experienced battlefield commanders Vietnam has ever known

General Tran Van Tra

The north/south divide in Vietnam was supposed to have ended in 1976 when the country was officially reunited a year after the Communist victory in Saigon. But to many southerners, it seemed and still seems as if they were conquered by the dogmatists in Hanoi and their northern henchmen who pronance over every aspect of life in the South. This feeling of resentment is not restricted to those who opposed the Communist take-over. It is shared by many southerners who actively fought against what they used to call the American puppet regime in Saigon. Amongst them, one of the most prominent figureheads was General Tran Van Tra, who died last weekend in Ho Chi Minh City, or rather Saigon, the place he always regarded as home. And it is there and throughout southern Vietnam that his death is likely to be most deeply mourned. Without a doubt, General Tra

was one of the most experienced hattlefield commanders Victnam has known, having started his career by opposing the French on their return to Indo-China in 1945 and then continuing on to fight the American and South Vietnamese forces until the conquest of Saigon in April 1975. Yet although immediately after this victory he was appointed head of the Military Management Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, Tra was never accorded the full honours many of his troops thought he deserved. He had clashed too often with the policy-makers in Hanoi and the men they sent south to guide the course of the war. True Tra was a Communist.

dent in Saigon before and during the Second World War. As such he was typical of the generation which grew up in southern Vietnam or Cochin-China as it was then known during the they learnt about liberty, fraternity and equality, but could only dream of such ideals being applied in Vietnam. It was only natural therefore for Tra to join the Viet Minh resistance movement as soon as it emerged in 1945, when he was soon appointed a local commander in the area surrounding Saigon. During the next nine years of

French colonial authorities for

his political activities as a stu-

hit-and-run guerrilla skirmishes against the French, he inevitably acquired a great deal of knowledge of the terrain and the most suitable tactics to use there and throughout the south before the Geneva Agreements in 1954 ended the first phase of the Vietnam War and resulted in the partition of the country. It was then that General Tra first went north where, because of his rank and reputation, he was appointed one of the Deputy Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, However it was a desk job in which he was subordinate to several northern generals who owed their positions more to their proletarian origins than their prowess on the battlefield.

Only when the war recommenced in the South in the early 1960s was Tra ablé to escape Hanoi and return to the territory where he felt at home. Even then, although he was respon-sible for rallying and training local forces in the South, which became known as the Viet Cong, he was not given overall

was twice arrested by the command. It was generals and political commissars from the North who decided policy and dictated how the war should be fought on the ground. Thus the decision to launch the Tet Offensive in 1968 against the major cities and towns in South Vietnam as well as the Ameri-1920s and 1930s. Educated at can embassy in Saigon, was Tra being present, but it was his forces which took most of the casualties when it largely failed in its objectives. He was determined therefore

> that no similar mistakes should he made when planning got underway for another major offensive in 1975. Defying orders from Hanoi, he made his way north to explain the situation on the ground to the Polithuro and Chiefs of Staff whom he considered to be very ignorant of the realities of the struggle in the South. As a result, he did manage to bring about some changes in Hanoi's strategic planning, but ultimately it was the northern generals who claimed credit for the victory in Saigon where their troops triumphantly entered Independence Palace to enforce the surrender of the South Vietnamese regime whereas all the groundwork for this achievement had been carried out by local forces led by General Tra.

Even his elevation to become head of the Military Management Committee in the former South Vietnamese capital had a bittersweet taste. He spent only a few months in the post before being transferred once more to a virtual sinecure in Hanoi. After a couple of years there, he could stand it no longer particularly after his main northern bugbear. General Van Tien Dung, published

a boastful account of how he personally had masterminded the final victory in the South. So General Tra returned to Saigon to write his own memoirs in five volumes starting with the last one about the events of 1975. As soon as it appeared in print, it was banned and Tra himself was banished to the countryside

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But his former comrades in arms did not forget him. In 1987 when Vietnam embarked on an open-door economic policy. ironically enough led by southerners who resented Hanoi's previous iron-fist tactics, many veteran members of the Viet Cong met together to form the Club of the Former Resistance Fighers with General Tra as one of its leaders. This apparently autonomous southern movement soon alarmed the leadership in Hanoi which moved quickly to ban it and create dissension between General Tra and his friends. This is now the subject of much of the samizdat literature now being circulated in Vietnam and abroad on the Internet by aggrieved southerners who still resent Hanoi's heavy hand and the treatment meted out to General Tra.

Indeed, by those who knew him he is likely to be remembered not only as a brilliant and brave general, but also an educated and well-read man who got on well with the troops under his command and appreciated that the Vietnamese are undoubtedly one nation but that the North differs from the South in many respects.

Judy Stowe

Tran Van Tra, soldier and politician: born Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam 1918; died Ho Chi Minh City 20 April 1996.

DEATHS

BOWEN: Colonel Cecil William MC OSU RAMC, died aged 75 years, in the Shropshire and Mid Wales Hos-pice, on 19 April 1996, Husband of Rovemary (nee Renshaw) for 49 vears. Beloved father of Jane. Sarah and Ropert. Dear Grandpa to Adam and proud "Damper" to Rebecca. Oliver and Rosie. "Non omnis mori-ar". Family funeral followed by cremation. No flowers, If desired. donations to Army Benevolent Fund, or Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice. Funeral Directors: A.S. Morris and Son. Church Stretton

MEMORIAL SERVICES

FRASER: A memorial service for Dr Caroline Fraser will be held on Sat-urday 25 May 1990, at 3pm. in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

Wills

Edward Langton, second Baron Iliffe, of Lower Basildon, Berkshire, the newspaper proprietor, left estate valued at £12.597,361 net. He left £5,000 to the Company of Fellowship

Births. Marriages & Deaths

IN MEMORIAM

CHERNOBYL: 26 April 1986, To past and future victims of Chernobyl. It doesn't have to happen again. Thank God the future's solar.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS.
MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Landon E145DL, or telephoned to 0171-293 2011, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra),

of Cappers and Feltmakers of Covenuv and books from Basildon House to the National Trust.

Mr Ivor Sinclair Turnbull, of Etham. Kent, founder in 1971 of Antiques Trade Gazette, left estate valued at £1.717.934 net.

Birthdays Mr John Battle MP, 45; Sir Roger

Buckley, High Court judge, 57; Miss Carol Burnett, comedienne, 60; The Marquess of Bute, racing driver, 38; Sir Edward Cazalet. High Court judge, 60; Mr Charlie Chester, co-median. 82; Mr David Coleman, sports commentator, 70; Mr Jack Douglas, actor and comedian, 69; Sir Gordon Downey, former Comp-troller and Auditor General, 68; Mr Justin Gosling, Principal, St Ed-mund Hall, Oxford, 66: Professor Margaret Gowing, scientific histori-an, 75; Mr Stuart Higgins, editor, the Sun, 40; Sir James Holt, medicval historian, 74; Sir Robin Jacob, High Court judge, 55: Dr Lynne Jones MP, 45: Maj-Gen Harry Knutton, former director-general, London City and Guilds Institute, 75; Dr Anne McLaren, zoologist, 69; Professor Wilfrid Mellers, composer, 82: Sir Oliver Millar, former Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, 73; Professor Jack Morpurgo. Emeritus Professor of American Literature, Leeds University. 78: Mr Peter Schaufuss. director, Royal Danish Ballet.

46; Mr Derek Waring, actor, 66: Mr Lectures Morris West, novelist, 80.

Anniversaries Births: Leonardo da Vinci, painter. sculptor and architect, 1452; Ferdinand-Victor Eugène Delacroix. painter, 1798; Harold Sidney Harmsworth, first Viscount Rother mere, newspaper publisher, 1868; Ludwig Wittgenstein, philosopher, 1889; Rudolf Hess, Nazi leader. 1894; Jean Vigo, film director, 1905. Deaths: Nelson Keys, comedian. 1939; Dame Cicely Countridge, actress, 1980; William "Count" Basic, jazz pianist and bandleader, 1984. On this day: the Duke of York married Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, 1923; a new building for the Madame Tussaud's waxwork exhibition opened in London, 1928; the Cubans invaded Panama, 1959; an accident at the Soviet nuclear power station at Chernoby resulted in a massive nuclear leak. 1986. Today is the Feast Day of St Franca of Piacenza, St Paschasius Radberius, St Peter of Braga, St Richarius or Riquier and St Stephen

National Gallery: Lynda Stephens,

Innocents Abroad (iii): Lotto, Saini Jerome in adoration before a Crucifix". lom. Victoria and Albert Museum: Sarah

He joined the party in 1938 and

Searight, "Islamic Art Visions of Paradise", 230pm.

Luncheons HM Government

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie QC, Minister of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at Lan-caster House. London SWI, in honour of Mr Kingsley Wickremaratne, Minister of Internal and Exteral Trade, Commerce and Fuel for the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Maple Leaf Club

Mr Serge April, retiring Deputy High Commissioner for Canada. was the guest of honour at a luncheon held vesterday by the Maple Leaf Club at the Reval Over-Seas League, St James's, London SWI, Mrs Judith

Mr Paul King, Agent-General for British Columbia, also spoke,

Receptions Foreign and Commonwealth Office Mr Maleolm Rifkind QC MP,

Secretary of State for Foreign and wealth Affairs, hosted a reception held yesterday at Lan-caster House, London SW1, in aid of the Council of Christians and Jews and the International Council of Christians and Jews. Sir Michael Latham, Mr Rifkind. Dr Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi, and the Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, were the speakers. Also present were Mr Paul Mendel. Director, CCJ, Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Chairman of the Executive, ICCJ. The Rev Kathleen Richardson, Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council and Archbishop Gregorios of Thy-ateira and Great Britain.

Dinners

Lord Mayor of Westminster The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Mr M. Steiner, Club Chairman, presided. Alan Bradley, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Pamela Batty, were the hosts at a dinner held yesterday at City Hall, Lordon SW1. for Past Lord

Edna Lumb **Artistic Trust**

The annual Edna Lumb Travel Prize for Leeds art students was awarded by the Edna Lumb Artistic Trust at a ceremony held yesterday at Leeds Metropolitan University, Mr David Morgan Rees presented the prize to the joint winners. Mrs Loretta Scaife and Miss Lucy Pedlar.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 8.01pm.

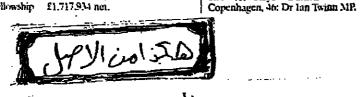
United Synapogues 0171-387 4300, Federation of Synapogues: 0181-202 2263, Union of Liberal and Progressive Synapogues: 0171-580 1663, Reform Synapogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573, New London Synapogue (Massorti: 4771-378 London Synagogue (Masortil: 0171-328

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

RUTAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Duke of Edinburgh dines with the Military Knights of Windsor at Windsor Castle. The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, visits Angelica International Limited, Warrington, Cheshire, as Patron, the Butler Trust, visits HM Prison and YOL Wilmslow, Cheshire, as Patron, the Home Farm Trust wisits as Patron, the Home Farm Trust, visits a new charity shop at Marpie, Greater Manchester, as Patron. SENSE - The National Deaf-blind and Rubella Association, visits a unit for deal-blind pupils at Royal Schools for the Deaf Manchester, Cheadle, Greater Man-Manchester, Cheadle, Greater Manchester; and as Patron, Quarry Bank Mill, Wilmslow, Cheshire. The Duke of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Logistics Corps, presents Medals to 37 Ragiment Royal Logistic Corps, at Buller Barracks. Aldershot Hamp. at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire. Prince Michael of Kent attend a Trustees Meeting at the National Mo-tor Museum, Beaulieu, Hampshire.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Reg-iment mounts the Queen's Life Guard

at Borse Guards, Harn; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Backingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots



Electricity row: Bid fever spreads through the sector as pressure mounts for a full-scale rethink of competition policy

Lang veto sparks call for merger overhaul

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREM! WARNER

MICHAEL HARRISON

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Pressure was mounting last night for a full-scale review of the Government's competition policy after it emerged that Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, blocked the National Power and PowerGen lakeovers without fully con-sulting other Cabinet ministers and against the advice of

Ed Wallis, PowerGen's chairman, wrote to Mr Lang saying he was "dismayed" at the "incomprehensible" decision and warning that it might not now go through with the £450m sale of two power stations to the Hanson-owned power group

This would almost certainly prompt a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into PowerGen and the rest of the electricity generating industry, casting doubt over the planned sale of the nuclear generator British Energy this

PowerGen also confirmed that it was seeking legal opinion on whether to seek a judicial review of Mr Lang's decision to block its takeover of Midlands Electricity after the MMC had given the deal the goahead along with National Pow-er's £2.5bn bid for Southern

Whitehall sources denied reports that Mr Lang had blocked the takeovers after being angered at National Power's apparent pre-empting of his decision by launching a re-newed conditional bid for Southern Electric. They also rejected suggestions that the mergers had been overruled to deter Southern Compay of the US, which already owns a REC, from mounting a hostile bid for National Power.

It was being stressed that Mr Lang had reached the decision in a quasi-judicial capacity af-ter weighing all the evidence from the MMC report and assessing the impact of the two deals on competition.

But it was also made plain that his deputy, Energy Minister Tim Eggar, had broadly supported the two mergers going ahead while other senior ministers, thought to include the Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine, were not directly consulted. Whitehall sources described

Mr Wallis's letter and the threat of a judicial review as "pram-rattling" by PowerGen. National Power meanwhile made it clear



Underpowered: Graeme Odgers is the only full-time senior figure at the MMC

that it would neither seek a ju-dicial review nor halt the £1.7bn sale of its generating capacity, also to Eastern Group.

But there was general belarge vertically-integrated generator and electricity distribution company in the shape of outside the power industry. Sir Bryan Carsberg, who resigned as Director General of Fair Trading last year after several policy disagreements with min-

ers. He also aid the MMC

musement at how the Governisters, said: "My feeling is that ment and regulators could have this is another episode that reblocked the two deals on the inforces the case for a review of grounds of the detriments they the way our competition policy and institutions operate." posed to competition while Sir Bryan repeated his call for supporting the creation of a the MMC to be condensed into a smaller, professional competition body with just half a dozen full-time commission-

talks, it emerged yesterday.

Woolwich, the UK's third-largest

building society, announced

plans for its own £3bn stock mar-

But the proposal was rejected

by ScotAm, which said at the

time it saw no useful advantage

in surrendering its mutuality to

ket flotation in January.

a building society.

NIC CICUTTI

should be amalgamated with the Office of Fair Trading.
At present the MMC has

just one full-time chairman, Graeme Odgers, three parttime chairmen and 28 other members who put in about haif a day a week. It can only investigate when

called on to do so by the ministers, the OFT or regulators of the privatised utilities.

Another senior competition official was much more critical of Mr Lang's decision, saying: "This seems to have been a

rather unfortunate episode. It leaves the impression that the MMC was working on a different set of criteria to the DTL Either that or it was a piece of blatant politicking which is hardly desireable, either."

PowerGen had agreed to sell its High Marnham station in Nottinghamshire and the Drakelow plant in Derbyshire to Eastern but included a getout clause in the contract in the event that its takeover of Midlands was blocked.

Comment, page 19 Lang's decision to block the two

US predators circle Southern and Midlands

Fresh bid fever hit the power sector yesterday, with both Southern Electric and Midlands Electricity said to be in the sights of US predators, writes Michael Harrison.

Bryan Townsend, chairman of Midlands, is thought to have received at least one informal approach from an overseas utility in the last 48 hours following the shock decison to block PowerGen's £1.9bn bid

for the company.

Among the US utilities being mentioned as possible bidders were Houston Industries, which failed last year in a joint bid for Norweb, Mission Energy and

Pacificorp. There were also reports that Southern Company of Atlanta might be lining up for a dawn raid on National Power, although sources close to the American power giant played

this down. Southern, which already owns South Western Electricity and disclosed two weeks ago that it was considering an £8bn offer for National Power, would need US regulatory approval to buy National Power shares. It is not yet thought to have ob-

Midlands Electricity shares rose 17p to 388p while Southern Electric was 11p up at

tained this.

National Power shares also recovered from heavy falls erlier in the day to stand just 8p lower at 556p while Power-Gen was down 15p at 555p. One observer said: "Ian

takeovers by the generators has put everything back on the

table."

If Southern were to bid for National Power it would probably have to dispose of a majority holding in Sweb otherwise its offer would almost certainly be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Meanwhile, National Power executives were urgently deciding what strategy to pursue following the refusal to allow its £2.5bn bid for Southern Electric to proceed.

One option is to proceed with a share buyback or payment of a special dividend to shareholders. Analysts estimate that the generator could afford to purchase up to 15 per cent of its own shares in a move that would cost £900m.

Other alternatives discussed by senior National Power executives and their advisers at a meeting on Wednesday evening include further overseas purchases or UK acquisitions outside the power sector.

There also remains the possibility that National Power may set up its own electricity supply business in readiness to attack the domestic market when it is liberalised in 1998. The generator could seek to set up a joint venture supply compny with one or more regional electricity companies. An announcement about Na-

tional Power's strategy is expected by the time of its preliminary resuls in the latter half of next month.

Ibstock builds | Woolwich approach to ScotAm rebuffed on bricks with Redland deal

Ibstock is to become Britain's leading brick manufacturer, pushing its biggest rival Hanson into second place, with the £160m acquisition of Redland's UK operations. The deal, which involves a £100m rights issue, yesterday sent Ibstock's shares 15 per cent higher to 85.5p as the market welcomed a long overdue consolidation of the

struggling brick industry. Ian Maclellan, chief executhe deal, which takes Ibstock's market share to 35 per cent. would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The company would not say as much, but it is understood that the Office of Fair Trading will wave the deal through in return for some disposals in areas such as the Midlands where Ibstock will become a dominant producer.

The possibility of a referral was highlighted by the structure of the two-for-three rights issue being used to part-fund the acquisition. Pitched at 55p, a sizeable discount to Wednesday's close of 74.5p, the issue is dependent on the deal being

shown a green light. Sir Colin Hope, chairman, said: "This is a unique oppor-tunity for Ibstock to establish its core UK brick business at the forefront of the industry. There will be significant opportunities to reduce overheads and operating costs in the combined

He highlighted the sensitivity of the brick industry to capacity utilisation and price increases, saying that a £1

thousand selling price for bricks would add £1.1m to profits. Similarly, a 10 per cent rise in de-

mand would add £3m to profits. Mr Maclellan would not be drawn on possible job losses, but since Ibstock acquired Tarmac's brick business 50 of its target's 700 workers have lost their jobs. The Redland operations employ about 1,300 staff, suggesting up to 100 jobs could be at risk.

If the takeover is approved, Ibstock will overtake Hanson's operations which produce 31 tive, brushed aside concerns that per cent of the market's total output of about 3 billion bricks a year. It follows nine months after Ibstock acquired Tarmac's brick business, with 7.5 per cent of the market, for £71m. Ibstock is believed to have

outbid Wieneberger, the Austrian producer that until earlier this week was favourite to acquire the Redland business. It defended the price paid, which compared with operating profits of only £85m last year, by promising overhead reduc-tions of about £6m from the integration of the acquired

business with its existing plants. The amouncement of the Redland acquisition accompanied an 83 per cent jump in pre-tax profits from £14.3m to £26.1m. At the bottom end of expectations, the company admitted that the rise was from a low base following two years of heavy losses in 1992 and 1993.

The result was driven by a big improvement in profits from UK bricks and a windfall from a surge in the price of wood pulp, which more than doubled profits from the Portugese forest products division to £12.1m.

IN THE FRAME

Woolwich Building Society made an unsuccessful bid to en-tice Scottish Amicable, the large Mutuals for possible acquisition/flotation mutual insurer, into takeover

Funds under insurer Scotush Widows £22.66

Scottish Amicable £14bn Friends Provident £15bn National Provident Institution £8br

£30bn Norwich Union Scottish Provident £5bn Scottish Life Woolwich to Scottish Amicable

Woolwich Building Society yesterday denied that it had or to Scottish Agreeable, for that tabled a formal bid for the Glasmatter," a spokesman said. gow-based insurer: "There has However, other industry been no approach made by the sources claimed the building

al insurers, including Scottish Provident, NPI and Friends ecutive Peter Robinson over allegations of financial irregu-Provident, in the past few larities which he denies, said it

about to be taken over. Sources mutualisation. was opposed to de-mutualisation - but if a predator were to make an exceptionally high bid. the company would be dutybound to consider it.

Details of Woolwich's approaches support suggestions by some analysts that the society is acutely conscious of its need to build itself up as a financial institution even before its flotation takes place next year. In January, the society, which

was recently rocked by the sud-

society had approached sever- den resignation of its chief ex- nounced that it is considering source claimed yesterday the anallegations of financial irregu-NPI has strongly denied it is further acquisitions before de-

> the growing uncertainty surrounding the future of the UK's top mutual insurers, several of which are known to be up for sale in the wake of the de-mumalisation fever gripping build-

ing societies. A report by Bacon & Woodrow, independent actuaries, forecast a year ago that only half the 100 or so insurance companies now in existence would survive beyond five years.

Last year, Norwich Union an-

a £1.7bn floration later this year. General Accident, the Scottish composite, took over was under no pressure to seek Provident Mutual last year. further acquisitions before de-

> of one of its senior executives inchided investigating a possible flotation or even the takeover of a building society. Most recently, Friends Prov-

under management, has been

target for Sun Alliance and Abbey National. Prudential was also said on

dent. But a senior industry

nonncement of Prudential's interest may have been aimed at forcing one of the rival bidders to speed up its own talks.
"The problem now is that

largest mutual insurer in Europe, admitted that the job description being thrown up." another insurance analyst said. "It could be that a signal is being sent to Sun Alliance to negotiate more seriously for Friends Provident. "Alternatively, the aim could

ident, which has about £15bn be that of using Pru's interest as a way of flushing out other singled out as a likely takeover companies it might really be target for Sun Alliance and more interested in. Scottish Widows, an Edinburgh life company with more than £22bn Monday to have thrown its hat under management, was named in the ring for Friends Provi- as a more likely target.

ICI faces pressure to drop share buy-back

MAGNUS GRIMOND

ICI will today face a call to drop its plans to buy in shares just a day after seeing its share price fall on disappointment that no purchases had accompanied first-quarter results.

Pirc, the corporate governance action group, is thought to be trying to rally the institutional shareholders it advises to vote against a resolution allowing ICI to buy up to 10 per cent of its own shares at today's annual general meeting.

But ICI's finance director, Alan Spall, defended the resolution yesterday, saying it was part of the normal action of a finance director trying to enhance shareholder value. est products division to £12.1m. He remained unworried by Investment Column, page 18 the Pirc move. "We already

have sufficient [proxy votes] in hand to clear all the resolutions we want to get through", he

ICI's shares slid 28p to 926p yesterday after running up strongly the day before on hopes that it would mount a share buy-in alongside firstquarter figures.

No purchases materialised yesterday and the results, showing pre-tax profits cut from £244m to £223m in the three months to March, were at the lower end of analysts'

They were accompanied by a warning from ICT's chairman, Sir Ronnie Hampel, that he expected profits to fall in the current quarter of the year, although "we remain optimistic that volume growth will resume in the second half."

Price (s) Clause (s) X Clause

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130

191

ICI saw operating profits slide from £231m to £205m. The main damage was in the core industrial chemicals operation, where both prices and

volumes feil. Most of the impact was in Europe, which contributed to a decrease in the division's turnover from £1.1bn to

But Mr Spall said the out-look was better. "At the basic end of industrial chemicals. certainly, there is evidence that the first quarter is the end of a pause period and, if the world continues to grow, we should see it continuing up-

ward", he said. About the only bright spot was the materials business, including acrylics, polyurethanes and films, where profits soared from £29m to £61m.



Sir Ronnie Hampel: Expects fall in profits

A 5 per cent fall in volumes was offset by prices 8 per cent higher than in the same period of 1995. ICI said staff numbers fell a further 1 per cent to 63,100 in the three-month period, after a 6 per cent reduction last year. It said its plan to make £400m efficiency savings by 1997 was on track. Investment Column, page 18
NCIES

Year lgs
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Retail revival steady but slow DIANE COYLE

Economics Editor

Steady but slow growth in retail sales last month showed that claims of an early return of the feelgood factor have been exaggerated.

Annual growth in the volume of sales on the high street returned to its highest rate for just over a year, but the increase during March disappointed City expectations.

If figures for GDP due on Monday show the economy grew only modestly during the first quarter of this year, many analysis expect Chancellor Kenneth Clarke to sanction a further cut in the cost of borrowing. Next month's monetary meeting on 8 May, a few days after the local elections, is seen as the likeliest date for a move

if there is going to be one. "The trend in retail sales is quite good and getting better. But the improvement by itself does not rule out a further in-terest rate cut," said Adam Cole, an economist at brokers James Capel.

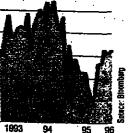
The volume of sales rose by very modest 0.2 per cent in March, less than expected because February's figure was revised upwards. Sales grew 2.2 per cent in the year to March, the same as in January and otherwise the highest since Febru-

агу 1995. Labour seized on the small monthly increase to throw doubt on the Government's claimsconfidence is reviving. "These disappointing retail sales figures are confirmation of sluggish growth and consumers' apprehension about economic prospects," said Andrew Smith, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury.

However, most City economists reckon retail spending is picking up. Geoffrey Dicks at NatWest Markets said: "Consumers may not yet be feeling good, but they are certainly feeling less miserable."

The retail revival is patchy, however. In the latest three months textile, clothing and footwear stores have enjoyed a 1.4 per cent rise in the volume of sales, and food stores 0.7 per cent growth. On the other hand sales at non-specialised stores such as department stores fell 0.8 per cent and volumes at spe-

> Retail sales armual % change



cialist shops like jewellers, butchers and bookshops were down 1.1 per cent.

Compared with a year earlier the strongest growth in the three months to March was seen by household goods stores, but their sales have been flat since

the beginning of this year. The value of retail sales grew by 7.1 per cent in the year to March, the fastest rate for five years. However, the Office for National Statistics cautioned that this year's early Easter had boosted March sales compared with last year.

Elusive feelgood factor, page 18

魔士

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Manual Company of Company Falls

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96.7 +0.1 87.6 Yesterday Day's olig Year Ago bules Latest Yr Ago Meet Figs Oil Breat \$ 20.08 -0.27 18.95 RPI 151.5+2.7pc 147.5 16 May 394.35 +3.35 387.30 GDP 107.0+2.0pc 106.1 29 Apr 260.92 +2.46 239.40 Base Rates — 6.00pc 6.75

The feelgood factor looked as elusive as ever on the high street yesterday when two clothing retailers. Étam and Austin Reed, reported sharply reduced profits while the Wickes DIY group warned that its first-half profits would fall "significantly below" last year's £9m. The company blamed the poor winter weather and the lack of improvement in the housing

Only DFS Furniture, the outof-town specialist, managed to buck the trend with a 16 per cent rise in profits to £15m at the half-year stage. Recently

Kirkham also unveiled an expansion programme that will see DFS open stores in London for the first time this year. Stores in Croydon, Sidcup and New Malden will open by July.

"We are not budgeting for any upturn but if there is any improvement we will be able to iake advantage," he said. Etam said the market re-

mained "difficult" and the 226strong chain has seen sales decline in recent weeks as its customers continue to seek discounted merchandise. However, Austin Reed is seeing a glimmer of recovery with sales

knighted chairman Sir Graham higher than the same period last count the stock to clear it. This

Finance director Chris Thomson, who takes over as Austin Reed's chief executive in June, said: "I think there are some encouraging signs that customers are coming back to the high street. I'm not sure it's a feelgood factor. It's just less of a feelbad factor."

Austin Reed saw pre-exceptional profits slump from £5.8m to £3.4m due to a poor year in its womenswear division. The company moved from its traditional tailored look to a more fashion-conscious offer but found it unpopular with cusin the last 12 weeks 8.6 per cent tomers. The stores had to disthe Stock Exchange if any approaches had been made after recent sharp increases in the

though margins were affected by higher marketing costs. Austin Reed has opened a shop from a culture of permanent disunder the Marlboro Classics name at Heathrow's Terminal One in the last few weeks. Trading is strong and more it was likely to record operating losses higher than the £660,000 Mr Thomson played down speculation that the company may be taken over by Moss Bros, Burton or Next. "We have received no approaches or chandise which have further expressions of interest," he

more to follow around the

The bank's warning of mass

job cuts among Lloyds TSB's 87,000 staff follows a wave of

banking sector. Up to 60,000

jobs have been lost in the fi-

nancial industry in the past five

The claim of 10,000 redun-

dancies at Lloyds TSB was de-

nied yesterday

Austin Reed share price.

Etam's tale of woe continued as it attempts to move away counting. Reporting a dramatic slump in profits from £10.7m to .. £152,000 for the six months to 31 January, Etam warned that deficit reported in the first half last year. This is due to sluggish sales of "inadequate" merbeen depressed by attempts to

holders in the South-west.

significantly," he writes.
The letter also highlights other problem areas such as the danger that Severn Trent will be inhibited from funding its own redundancies within the entire capital investment programme by the cost of mounting a bid for South West.

years. Bifu claims up to 500,000 Mr Wilkinson goes on to warn that the "substantial nummore may go in the next few bers of senior executives" that would need to be diverted from nied yesterday by a spokeswoman, who said that with 6,000 staff turnover each Severn Trent to South West to make the takeover successful was bound to weaken its ability to deliver improved services. year, the bank could absorb that scale of necessary The letter also questions what level of job losses would occur.

says Ofwat

MICHAEL HARRISON

The water industry watchdog Ofwat has warned that the lanned takeover of South West Water by Severn Trent could lead to higher bills, poorer services and lower investment for customers in the Midlands.

The concerns are voiced in a letter from Clive Wilkinson, chairman of the Ofwat customer service committee for the region, to local MPs, local authorities and consumer groups. Mr Wilkinson is particularly concerned about what might happen to prices, pointing out that the average domestic water and sewage bill for Severa Trent customers is £201 compared with £329 for house-

"Any policy of bill harmonisation could increase charges to existing Severn Trent customers

• Chiroscience's shares surged almost 42 per cent after the biotechnology company to id analysts that its first novel drug discovery programme - D5410, an MMP inhibitor for arthritis - was to commence Phase I clinical trials, and that it had developed several compounds for possible use in cancer patients. After what he described as a straight of the st scribed as significant scrientific advances in all major programmes since the last update, 'Dr Jon Dickens, executive director of pharmacounds. maceutical research, said: We expect to report additional research and development progress over the coming year, especially the progression of compounds into development and subsequent din-

THE INDEPENDENT • FRIDAY 26 APRIL 1996

• The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, the UK's top fund regulator, filmed National Westminster Bank £75,000 for violations by its fund management arm in administering personal equity plans from 1991 to 1995. Imro said Nat West Investments, a subsidiary, failed fully to reconcile its holdings of 25 British stocks held by its Peps during the period. "We treat this as a substantial fine. We feel stock reconciliations are a vital part of protecting customers' assets, " Judy Delaforce, an Imro spokeswoman, said. Nat West said it uncovered the problem during an internal review of its PEP operations and alerted Imro. It said no investors in Nat West Peps were affected.

• The engineering industry's sales dived by 5 per cent in volume terms in February according to official figures yesterday. The main reason for the drop was a record decline in export sales of one category of electrical engineering, the manufacture of TV and radio transmitters and apparatus for line telephony. Total sales in electrical engineering in the three months to February remained 5.7 per cent higher than the same period a year earlier.

• British Civil Aviation Anthority said the number of people flying between London and Paris fell by 17 per cent in 1995, the first full year of operation by Eurostar, which is jointly owned by British Rail and Ste Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français. In contrast, the number of people using British's six largest airports contrast, the number of people using Britain's six largest airports

- Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton, Birmingham and Manchester - grew by 6 per cent last year.

• Ford Motor's safety recall of 8.7 million vehicles to replace ignition switches will cost up to \$870m (£575m). Jon Harmon, a company spokestrian, said the cost of replacing the switches, which could short-circuit and catch fire, was estimated to be about \$100 a vehicle. He added, however, that the actual cost might be smaller since some of the vehicles involved might no longer be on the road. Ford expects to pay for the recall out of existing cash reserves set aside for unexpected events such as recalls, and will not be taken as a charge against profits. The recall covers Ford and Lincoln-Mercury cars and trucks involving certain 1988-1993 models to replace ignition switches that could short-circuit, over-heat and start a fire in the steering column of the vehicle.

• Sir Colin Chamdler, Vickers' chief executive, played down the controversy over UK-based Saudi dissident Mohammed Al-Masaari and its possible effects on export orders placed by Saudi Arabia, particularly for the company's Challenger 2 battle tanks. Speaking at the annual meeting. Sir Colin described a UK government decision last week to rescind a deportation order as a minor setback. "The fact that the Government made some attempt to deport him was reasuring to the Saudi authorities," he told shareholders. Vickers is in talks with Saudi authorities for an order for 150 bat tle tanks, which could be worth more than £600m. A decision is ruot due until next year.

<u> </u>	-	KK KESULI		Shildand
	3 rsvorruT	Pre-tax £		Dividend
Amagem (F)	1.85m (0.76m)	-1.75m (-3.98m)	-3.8p (-8.6p)	nl
Austin Read (F)	72.8m (71.1m)	3.38m (7.13m)	7.2p (16.6p)	6р (бр)
David Brown (F)	144m (125m)	14.1m (12.5m)	15.3p (14.9p)	7.6p (6.9p)
Development Sec (F)	21.6m (18.0m)	2.24m (-4.68m)	7.10 (-20.10)	2.4p (2.4p)
DFS Femiliano (I)	87.7m (73.7m)	15.1m (13.1m)	9.59p (8.27p)	3.1p (2.65p)
Sieco Holdings (I)	12.Bm (15.3m)	-0.10m (-0.25)	-0.3p (-0.5p)	D.25p (nill)
Etana (F) -	202m (218m)	0.15m (10.7m)	-0.37р (10.9р)	1,25p (7.7p)
Follows Group (F)	46.1m (38.2m)	4 75m (3.01m)	10.98р (6.39р)	2.4p
lbstock (F)	250m (210mm)	26.1m (14.3m)	6.67p (3.69p)	2p (1.5p)
TC1 (Q1)	2.57bn (2.28bn)	223m (244m)	18.3p (21.1p)	-
Intersational Exergy (F)	83.0m (87.3m)	5.33m (5.48m)	7.95p (7.9p)	4.3p (4.125p)
Rassco Esergy (F)	6.89m (7.57m)	0.75m (1.62m)	254р (5.56р)	1p (1p)
Risine Group (†)	59.5m (48.9m)	-8.51m (-2.68m)	-4.83p (-2.24p)	nd (nil)
Intellity Haldlags (F)	208m (164m)	16.0m (13.1m)	20.5p (16.8p)	8.2p (7.1p)
(F)) - (F)Intil (II) - Interim	(f) - Latest Bour	es 13 months: new	ints 12 months	

Merger costs 500 jobs at Lloyds TSB



Peter Ellwood: 'Some very

If residents living near Ex-eter look out of their win-

dows next Monday at ten

of a micro-light plane on a

special mission. Monday is the first day that households

will be allowed to receive gas

from alternative suppliers in

the South-west - the pilot region for gas competition.

One supplier, a joint ven-ture between Total and Lon-

London Total Energy, is fly-

ing in its managing director,

Mark Petterson, on a micro-

light to meet his first cus-

don Electricity called

tomer. Liz Hodges of

Up to 500 staff at one of Lloyds TSB's administration offices are to lose their jobs in the wake of the group's merger of back-office functions, the bank announced yesterday.

The redundancies, at TSB's offices in Birmingham will be phased in by the end of 1997 as the company moves its op-erations to Bristol, where Lloyds already has an administration centre.

Although a total of 900 administration jobs out of the combined group's 2,400 staff will be lost in the move, 400

Woodbury. Mr Petterson will

have a pilot to drop him off.

Readers of Roof, Shelter's

housing magazine, may re-member an interview with

Christopher Sharp, chief ex-

ecutive of Northern Rock

Building Society, published

in the mag nine months ago.

He passionately attacked so-

cieties that were ditching mutuality in favour of plc status: "Why do some soci-

Those witty chaps at ING Barings' corporate finance depart-

ment had a good chortle yesterday when this large tombstone

style ad appeared in the FT: "ScottishPower has acquired Manweb. Baring Brothers acted as lead financial adviser to

ScottishPower in this transaction." The ad is dated October

1995, the time of the transaction. Sources within Barings con

firmed that they put the ad in simply because of the Govern-ment's rejection of the two outstanding bids for electricity

generating companies. "It's a little bit of opportunism," one

source commented. Nose-thumbing, more like.

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

elsewhere in Birmingham, none of the redundancies were making the rest redundant.

Peter Ellwood, deputy chief executive of Lloyds TSB, said: 'In order to achieve the benefits from a merger, some very hard decisions have to be taken and the location of our main administration centre was clearly going to be one of

"Nobody can doubt the log-ic of reducing the number of administration sites and we recognised that we would have to make a choice between [Bristol] and [Birmingham] at some stage in the process.

The bank said yesterday that

eties feel impelled to relin-

They "are being forced to

use the ultimate bung - cash

or free shares on conversion

erwise unconvinced member-

ship". And so on. Strange then that Northern Rock an-

nounced its intention to con-

vert to plc status earlier this month. I await my "bung" in

Malcolm Horsman, a former

acolyte of the legendary Jim Slater, is joining USM tid-dler CRP Leisure as an exec-

utive director. The company

has had a subdued history of

late - the shares closed un-

changed yesterday at 3.5p -

but with Mr Horsman on

board things may brighten

to plc - to persuade an oth-

quish 200 years of tradi-

tion?" he asked.

keen anticipation.

compulsory. A register of vol-unteers for redundancy was being opened and the bank ped to redeploy many staff in Birmingham.

said. However, he confirmed

year the company has returned

to more formal, structured suits

and says sales are responding.

may be added.

Menswear performed better

The announcement was at-tacked by the banking union Bifu, which claimed the redundancies were only the first of what it claimed were likely to be 10,000 job losses as a result of the merger.
John Townsend, Bifu's as-

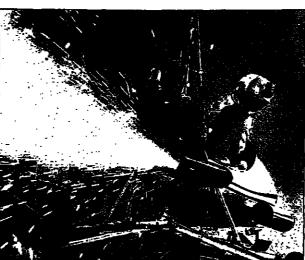
sistant secretary at TSB, where the redundancies are centred, said: "This is just the start. No jobs are safe in Bristol or Birmingham and we are conit would aim to ensure that cerned that there will be many

Pilot project launches gas competition up. This shell firm has been involved in pub maintenance and property, but its one remaining business is theatrical agents, an area where Mr

Horsman's interest in the arts may come in handy. It will certainly be a long way from Mr Horsman's experience in the 1970s with the likes of Bowater and Ral-

Michael Hardern, who has angered so many building so ciety chiefs with his ginger group, "Members for Conversion", has added a new feather to his hat. The self employed butler has joined Second Age, a pressure group formed this spring:

"Second Age is dedicated to the aims of those lucky enough to be over forty ... Our aim is to combat ageism and prejudice against age at all levels and in any way that it is displayed, whilst offering our members the benefits of



Special mission: gas competition soon gets airborne

their Second Age through (amongst other things) group purchasing and negotiation."
Mr Harden has joined to become its aims director. On Wednesday he was at Britannia Building Society's annual meeting, urging the board to opt for plc status and trigger cash payouts for the members. Mr Hardern says: "The board warned me that greed goes before a fall. I replied: 'Why should I go without my windfall to pay for someone else's cheaper mortgage? Just one problem with Mr Hardem's new role in Sec-

He's only 39. "I'll be 40 next February. You've got to prepare in this life."

BRADFORD & BINGLEY'S REDUCED RATES OF INTEREST EFFECTIVE FROM 28 APRIL 1996

		Аппиа	l Interest	Month	ly Interest
Account	Balance	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.
First Choice ⁵	£50÷	L.25	1.00	-	-
(Including Bonus)	£500+	2,50	2.00	-	-
	£3,000+	3.00	2.40	-	-
	£10.0 00 +	3,55	2.84	-	-
	£25.000+	3.95	5.16	-	-
Special Asset	+005,52	3,10	248	3.00	2.40
	\$5,000+	3.45	2.76	3.35	2.68
	£10.000+	4.40	5.52	4.25	3.40
	£20,000+	4.70	9.76	4.50	3.60
	£40,000+	5.00	4.00	4.80	3.84
	4000,083	5.50	4.24	5.10	4.08
Premier Deposit*	£1+	0.25	0.20	-	-
	+0013	0.75	0.60	-	-
	+000.012	3.20	2.56	-	-
	\$25,000+	3.95	3.16	-	-
Privilege follow-up TESSA#	£00+	6.00°	-	-	-
(Including 0.75% p.a. bonus)	+000,83	6.507	-	-	-
	£6,000+	6.75 ¹	-	-	-
	+1000,63	7.00°	-	-	-
Preference follow-up TESSA-	£3,001+	6.25*	-	-	-
Including 0.50% p.a. bonus)	+000.02	6.75 [†]	-	-	
Special Interest Bond	£500+	5.45	4.36	-	-

		Annua	ıl interest	Month	k Interest
Account	Balance	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.	Gross & p.a.	Net Equit. % p.a.
One Month	£1+	2.00	1.60	1.95	1.56
Notice	£2,500+	2.55	204	2.45	1.96
	125,000+	3.50	2.80	3.35	2.68
	£50,000+	4.00	3.20	3.85	3.08
Bonus (Inc. full bonus)	+000.13	2.65	2,12	-	-
	+000,012	3.70	2.96	-	-
Option 6	£9,500+	3.40	2.72	3.25	2.60
Angual	£10,000+	4.45	3.56	4.25	3.40
	£30,000+	4.75	3.80	4.55	3.64
Mauurin Bond	£5,000+	5.25	4.20	5.05	4.04
	£25,000+	5.75	4.60	5.35	4.44
Privilege Bond	£5,000+	5.25	4.20	5.05	4.04
	£25,000+	5.75	4.60	5,55	444
	+000,000	5.85	4.68	5,65	4.52
	+000,00012	5.95	4.76	5,75	4.60
Matured TESSAs and		3.75	3.00	•	-

he variable. Not reparalents assume the lower rate of measure too of 20% for rates are mainted and are for librarance purposes of paid after deduction of mouths tax at the lower rate of 20% or pulper) he the required certifications gross Belmman metal revenue in united surveigners CEA (Privatery TEAA) to only available to customers who have a mainteng Bradford & Burgley TEAA. «Preferent malable to customer who have a manufact TEAA (TEAA) returns are tax-free first of mesone taxt subject to all arms and condenses be no accounts available through the before a factor of meaning and the subject to all arms and condenses be no account a statistic through the before the factor of the scheme for the state of the scheme for the state and the scheme for the state are consistent of the scheme for the

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Ibstock surge is hard to justify

The 15 per cent rise in lbstock's share price yesterday was rather curious. Having pitched its £100m, two-for-three rights issue at 55p, the shares might reasonably have been expected to fall to somewhere around 67p from Wednesday's close of 74.5p. In fact they jumped to 85.5p, a massive vote of confidence in the acquisition of Redland's UK brick operation.

Certainly the deal makes sense, if only defensive sense, and if the savings Ibstock has already made from its acquisition last year of Tarmac's brick business are anything to go by the cost benefits of this much larger purchase could be substantial. But at £160m, compared with an operating profit last year of just £8.9m, the savings would have to be pretty mouth-watering.
One suspects the real winner in this deal is, for a change, Redland.

Anyone who thinks that a 35 per cent share of the UK market will give Ibstock and Hanson (31 per cent) a free hand in setting prices is likely to be gravely disappointed. With Baggeridge, CINVen and Marshalls snapping at their heels with a combined 17.5 per cent slice of the market, bricks are going to remain as competitive as ever.

That was confirmed by profits for 1995, which showed a marked slowdown in profits in the second half af-ter a buoyant interim period. Continuing poor trading in the first half of this year, together with an expected slump in profits from the now highly cyclical Portuguese pulp interests, lay behind a pretty unequivocal warning on future profits.

Because of that the company must hope the nod and wink it has received from the Office of Fair Trading holds true and the deal is waved through in return for a minimum of plant disposals.

If the bureaucrats are finally accepting that the brick industry can only prosper in a heavily rationalised form then things must be even bleaker than previously thought. After vesterday's surge, it is not at

all clear that the shares fully reflect that

reality. On the basis of forecast pre-tax

profits of £22m and £37m next year

(with a full Redland contribution), the shares stand on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 18 falling to 14. With the rest of the building materials sector on a rating of 13 to the end of 1997, that is an unjustifiable premium. The more so when the volatilTHE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

lbstock : at a glance

-Market value: £239m, share price 85,59

ity of the pulp business means analysts' forecasts at this early stage are really only so much guesswork. The rights issue has been priced to go, but in the

market the shares are too expensive, ICI's confidence may be misplaced

ICI is confident that it is not facing a massive downturn in the chemicals cycle, which it has done its utmost to escape since the last peak in the 1980s. Certainly the stock market appears to have confidence, judging by the shares' 14 per cent outperformance against the

rest of the market this year. But yesterday's figures, showing pre-tax profits down 8.6 per cent to £223m in the first three months of the year, do little to support the ICI case. Shorn

Five-Year record

Profits by activity

Pre-tax profits (Em)

of Zeneca, its contra-cyclical pharmaceuticals operation, the chemicals rump has been trying to shed the most exposed commodity husinesses. But it

plainly still extremely vulnerable. Industrial chemicals, used in everything from plastic drinks bottles to paint, remain the core of the business, but a combination of unsustainably high prices last year and dest ocking by customers have slashed first-quarter profits from the division by :£56m to £87m. Volumes slid 9 per cent, in the period. but plant shutdowns in the industry should help tighten the market and ICI is seeing prices coming off the bottom.

The group is also unworried by a flat £14m contribution from paints, despite a £100m rise in turnover to £524m. An unspecified contribution from two recent US acquisitions. Grow and Fuller Sir Graham Kirkham has good reason O'Brien, was wiped out by a downturn in Australia and Continental Europe. Meanwhile, in explosives ICI appears

Share price pence

plosives being used in the Oklahoma bombing.

ICI itself is warning that profits in the current quarter will be below last year's level, but, further out, the plan to reap £400m savings by 1997 is said to be still on track. Yesterday's 28p fall in the shares to 926p owed as much to

to have walked into a legal minefield. No sooner had it started to extricate

itself from action over alleged price-

fixing at its Thermex subsidiary, than

it was hit by a class action over its ex-

disappointment over the absence of any share buy-back than the outlook, but investors would do well to exercise caution. Assuming profits of £950m this year, the forward multiple of 12 suggest the shares should not be chased.

DFS expansion could be costly

to be cheerful, with the relentless rise of DFS Furniture continuing. There were none of the industry's traditional whinges about the weather yesterday, or the absence of a feelgood factor, just

a steady trend of rising profits.

The latest period (the six months to January) saw profits up 16 per cent to £15m on sales up 19 per cent to £15m on sales up 19 per cent to £87.7m. Excluding contributions from new openings, like-for-like sales were up by a healthy 8.6 per cent and by a similar, though unspecified figure, in the 12 weeks since.

With 34 stores and a further four to open between now and the end of July, DFS is now tackling London and the South-east. Though this is a huge market, the expansion could prove costly until DFS can develop a cluster of South-east stores and reap economies of scale. Margins fell from 16.7 per cent to 16.1 per cent over the year and could slip further as a result.

Anyone who bought DFS shares when the company floated at 260p in 1993 has had a good run for their money, particularly in the past 12 months. They fell 3p yesterday to 510p and with analysts forecasting profits of £30.7m this year, the shares are on a demanding rating of 26 times earnings.

That is asking a lot, even with the prospect of further special dividends, following last November's £10m payout. Take profits.

business



'By blocking out the

generators lan Lang

has left the electricity

industry in a state of

undiluted confusion*

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A waste of everyone's time, money and energy The more Ian Lang's decision to block National Power and PowerGen from bidding for regional electricity distribution companies is examined the more lan Lang's decision to block and the more Ian Lang's decision to block Incompanies are not power and PowerGen from bidding for regional electricity distribution companies is examined the more lan Lang's decision to block Incompanies and PowerGen from bidding for regional electricity distribution among a handful of life mutuals suggests that the society has been putting itself. It is to break out quickly from this unsupport and power and PowerGen from bidding for regional electricity distribution among a handful of life mutuals suggests that the society has been putting itself. It is not break out quickly from this unsupport in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not break out quickly from this unsupport in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not break out quickly from this unsupport in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not break out quickly from this unsupport in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not provided in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not provided in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not provided in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not provided in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not provided in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not provided in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not provided in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not provided in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not provided in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not provided in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not provided in the problem with the society has been putting itself. It is not provided in the problem with the society has bee

companies is examined, the more bizarre it appears. Mergers policy and, more particularly, the future of the power industry seem to have been left in a mire of uncertainty; if the Trade Secretary's intention was to calm things down, to put the lid on the frenzy of takeover activity in the sector, what he has achieved is the reverse. His decision may have created more problems than it solves.

Taking it from the top, the first effect is to expose the two distribution companies that National Power and PowerGen were bidding for to the strong possibility of takeover by overseas companies. Since Mr Lang has already allowed foreign takeovers for other distribution companies, he could hardly justify blocking them in this case. Midlands is said to have received a couple of alternative approaches already.

The second effect might be to halt the sale

by PowerGen of generating plant to East-ern Electricity, now part of Hanson, since this deal was conditional on PowerGen succeeding in its bid for Midlands. If in turn PowerGen fails to go through with the sale, there is likely to be a fresh Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into its failure to comply with the regulator's demands. That would almost certainly broaden out into an examination of the generating market more generally, undermining the Government's proposed flotation of British

expansion into generation through the acquisition of plant from National Power and PowerGen into doubt. If vertical integration is not allowed for National Power

and PowerGen, why for Eastern?

Mr Lang's own view, which although it may not be shared by his own department is certainly also the view of Number 10 and the Treasury, is that he has acted in an entirely logical fashion, in accord with a vigorous free market approach to competition policy. He argues that if you are going to get proper competition in the electricity market after 1998, the target date, the last thing you should be doing is allowing overly powerful generating companies to gobble up the supply side of the industry new. Once compelition is properly developed, well then maybe, but not now, when the generators would be able to use the distributors as a captive market for their own output.

But while there may be something in this argument, there is no doubt that by block-ing out the generators he has left the electricity industry in a state of undiluted confusion. By sticking two fingers up at the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. which recommended that the bids should be allowed to proceed if certain conditions were the point of having an MMC if its recom- tury has never been entirely credible. The best defence against such predatory atten- money.

An overhaul of the competition authorities is long overdue and if that is the upshot of the power shenanigans, then it may be no bad thing. What to do about the electricity industry is a much more difficult question to answer, but certainly ministers need to spell out much more clearly what is acceptable and what is not. Ed Wallis, chief executive of PowerGen, would never have bid for Midlands were he not given some encouragement by ministers to believe it was acceptable. In any case, after Mr Lang's decision to allow vertical integration in the case of Scottish Power's bid for Manweb, it was entirely reasonable to think that it might be allowed in other cases too. If Mr Lang's position is that it is allowable, but only when the generator's share of the market is below a certain level, then be should say so and define what that benchmark is.

By allowing these questions to go unanswered, the Government has wasted everyone's time, money and energy.

Acquisition is the way for Woolwich

it doesn't buy its own story either. Retail financial services is already an over-

crowded sector. From all directions, building societies, insurers and clearing banks are elbowing each other to get onto the same patch of lucrative turf, where financial conglomerates will take deposits, sell mortgages, pensions and insurance, and look after long-term savings and investment requirements across the board. A number of building societies have such pretensions. In the crush, however, only a few will succeed. Of the pretenders. Woolwich's prospects look among the shakier. Halifax, which is also converting to bank status next year, benefits from being the biggest and arguably the best of the old mutuals. Alliance & Leicester, although on the small side, has the advantage of already being significantly more diversi-

related business. Woodwich has no such obvious advantages It is a successful, large building society, but will make a vulnerable, middle-sized bank. Shaken by the controversial sucking of Peter Robinson, its chief executive, a few weeks ago. Woolwich is probably getting more than allowed to proceed if certain conditions were met. he has also in effect assigned that august body to the dusthin of history. What's self to take the company into the next centary banks, the Pru and BAT among them. The

fied than most societies, with about 40 per

cent of its profits coming from non-mortgage-

something itself. But the problem with the life mutuals is that they are flavour of the month. A host of big players, such as the Pru, Sun Alliance, Abbey National and Nat West, are furiously jockeying to buy, and several deals are said to be bubbling just below the surface. Whether Woolwich still has the wherewithall to huy before being bought is wherewithall to buy before being bought is anyone's guess.

Tottenham wastes some money

There are plenty of things to question about Tottenham Hotspur's £11m rights issue but one of them is why Alan Sugar's North London football club is paying the City and insulational control of the city and city a not-insubstantial sum to raise capital at all. The money is being raised via an underwritten one-for-four rights issue at 280p a share. We must await the documentation to see the cost of this exercise but underwriting is always expensive. It is also, for capital-raising purposes at least, a waste of money. Tottenham could have raised the same amount through a non-underwritten deeply discounted rights issue. No risk, no need to underwrite. Provided shareholders are protected through pre-emption rights, there is no obvious reason why companies should per-sist with the City's preferred way of raising

BET claims Warburg in breach of Panel rules

MAGNUS GRIMOND

BET yesterday accused SBC Warburg, Rentokil's broker, of breaking the takeover rules, just a day before the £2bn bid for the business services group is due to close.

burg's sale on Wednesday of 27 million BET shares to Salomon Brothers for onward transmission via Hoare Govett to a Renokil associate, Retailpac.

na

ekend

John Clark, claimed that the es in the market and claimed a deal breached Takeover Panel further 3.4 per cent from earrules, which prevent Warburg, as broker and underwriter to the bid, carrying out any dealsisting the offeror or offeree сотралу.

Initial investigations by the executive of the Takeover Panel, which oversees bid and deals in the City, suggested that no rules had been broken. The panel said: "On the basis of the explanations received so far, the executive does not believe any such breach has occurred."

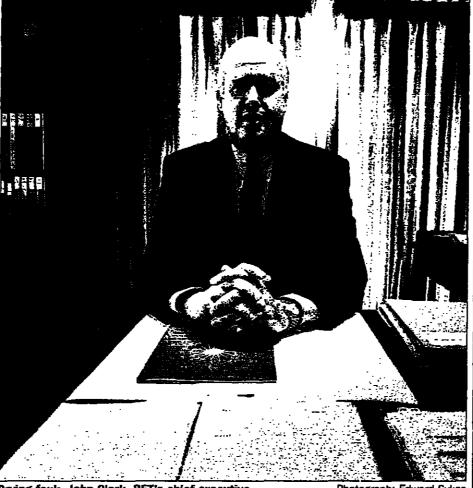
The executive is understood to have made its initial ruling following interviews with representatives from Warburg, Sa-

lomon and Hoare Govett and baving listened to tape recordings of relevant telephone conversations. But the panel was still having discussions with BET's advisers last night, leading to speculation that it may change its stance. BET had The latest spat between the two sides followed SBC War-senting just under 3 per cent of the group, should be disallowed as acceptances to the Rentokil bid.

By Wednesday evening, the bidder had amassed a 7.5 per BET, led by chief executive cent holding through purchaslier acceptances received.

Rentokil shrugged aside the dispute and bought a further ings "with the purpose of as- 500,000 shares yesterday at the cash alternative price of 202.5p. Clive Thompson, the chief executive, remained optimistic about the outcome. "We remain confident. We have now completed our rounds of presentations to institutions. We have now done over 50 and I am delighted at the way they have been received."

Mr Thompson said he had received a great deal of support. "They have questioned in great detail the strength of our proposition. They have ques-



Crying foul: John Clark, BET's chief executive

with BET... and my reading of the outcome of these presentations is that we will have a high level of support."

He dismissed the latest BET complaint to the Takeover Pan-el as technical matter. "We would expect the panel to confirm their preliminary state-

ment", he said. BET's shares dropped 1p to 203p yesterday, just above the

they remained well below the one of Rentokil's advisers, for main cash-and-shares offer.

That was worth 216p a share last night, after Rentokil's shares added 2.5p to 360p. The bidder's revised offer is for nine new shares plus £10 in cash plus dividend payments totalling 80p for every 20 shares in BET.

This is not the first time the Takeover Panel has intervened in the bid. In February, the panlevel of the cash alternative, but el criticised Lazard Brothers, Photograph: Edward Sykes

failing to keep it informed about its client's intentions. Bill Staple, then director general, voiced concerns about a market leak prior to the announcement of the bid.

Earlier this month, the panel called on NatWest Markets to make clear its position as underwriter to the bid after its broking arm issued a research note which described the initial

Jewel in C&W's crown loses some of its lustre

Developments in Hong Kong over the past few days suggest that the jewel in the Cable & Wireless crown, so eagerly sought by BT, is not glittering

Early in the week the colony's telecommunications regulatory authority ruled that the C&Wcontrolled Hongkong Telecommunications will lose a valuable part of its international network monopoly as competition would be introduced on the provision of fax and data services, alongside several specialist areas such as private internal networks and video-conferencing

services. HKT put a brave face on the decision saying it welcomed "the clarification" of its role as an exclusive service provider and noted that its voice monopoly remained intact.

However, this week has also seen pressure being exerted on that monopoly from the World Trade Organisation which is telecommunications services in

Geneval The HKT international telecommunications monopoly, which lasts until September 2000, is by far the most lucrative part of the company's operations and is primarily responsible for the estimated 70 per cent of C&W's entire operating profit which comes from Hong Kong. HKT is 57.5 per cent-owned by C&W.

Last year HKT lost its domestic network monopoly when three other companies were given permission to establish rival networks. However, there is little money to be made from change in HKT's international

A tighter grip on Hongkong Telecom will weigh on profits, writes

Stephen Vines

the low price domestic net-work. Indeed, HKT is running into a political storm as it tries to abolish the colony's cherished system of not charging for lo-cal calls, other than by way of a low monthly line rental charge.

The real money is in the international service, particularly high-growth areas such as data communications. HKT says that 17 per cent of its international traffic consists of fax and data

Data traffic is growing faster than voice traffic, so the loss of the monopoly in this sphere will impact on future profits.

tained that the overall impact of the change would only be "slightly negative" because increased competition "will result in increased demand for service from all players". However it is clear that HKT's margins will be cut. The company is already talking about reducing international fax charges.

BT should not be surprised by the diminution of HKT's monopoly because the colony's regulatory authorities have been considering this matter for some time.

Never the less it is unlikely that BT has allowed for any voice network monopoly. The colony's government has confirmed its intention to "honour the exclusivities already granted" to HKT, but if C&W relinquishes control of the company its exclusive licences will have to be reviewed, providing an opportunity to change the rules of

the game. Although there has been much speculation over China's attitude towards BT taking a controlling stake in HKT, the government in Peking has maintained a marked silence in this matter. Past experience suggests that if the Chinese government had a strong view, it would have been forcefully expressed by now. China resumes sovereignty over Hong Kong next year and is carefully watching how the outgoing administration deals with its privately-owned utilities.

China is keen to gain admittance to the WTO and is having difficulties doing so because Alistair Grieve, HKT's of its many trading practices petitive. It does not, for example, allow foreign participation in the running of its telecommunications networks.

A concession to liberalise the Hong Kong telecommunications market may therefore figure among the gestures China would be ready to make in advancing its claim to membership.

Last night Hong Kong gov-ernment officials were saying that the existing monopoly would not be broken but were giving no guarantees about what would happen if the current network fell under BT's

Lit: Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry

Lit: Preparing for the Exams

Eng: Preparing for the Exam

Hist: Hitler & Mussolini Sci: The Spectrum of Life

Sci: From Genes to Galaxies Geog: Settlement, Rural & Urban

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Socio: Theory & Method

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National Power bleeds despite talks of a dawn raid

National Power could be the subject of a dawn raid today. The story swirling around the UK electricity distributor, South Western Electricity. Whitehall could have difficulstock market in late trading was that Southern Company, the ambitions if it downscaled its stock market in late trading was American group that wrong-footed the alleged experts with its declaration of affection for NP last week, had decided to plough into the market, regardless of the Government's rejection of NP's Southern Electric takeover bid.

Although US regulatory restrictions could prevent an early Southern strike the market was not prepared to dismiss the rumours. It was uncertain whether the shock intervention by Board of Trade president Ian Lang ended Southern's acquisition hopes. Surely, it was argued, if some generator excursions into distribution were allowed Southern must have a

chance of competing for NP. When the NP affair flared it

distribution involvement. In all the excitement the smell of burnt fingers continued to waft around the market. NP fell a further 8p to 556p and points at 3,819.3. The sup-

PowerGen 15p to 555p.
Some of the distributors perked up as PG underlined the market's feeling that Mr Lang's decision to block the NP & PG bids for Southern and Midlands Electricity left the distributors at the mercy of overseas marauders.

Most distributors advanced electricity battle remains alive and dangerous. Trading, Mr Ian Lang's shock statement, has been

heavy and speculators have suffered serious losses.



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

porting index was again on a roll, up 8.6 to another peak of 4,553.3.

The outstanding performer of the day was not big enough to claim membership of either index. Chiroscience, with a stock market value of around £300m, surged 117.5p to 400p.
The excitement stemmed with the market convinced the from an analysts meeting at which upbeat comments were

made about the group's drugs pipeline, including its cancer drug. It has apparently created a number of compounds which could have cancer uses.

Stock market reporter of the year

developed compounds superior to those being produced by high-flying rival British Biotech, due to make an important presentation next month. Biotech took the competition in its stride, up a fur-

ther 48p to a peak of 2,808p.

Granada was squeezed ahead 2p to 842p as the sale of the Forte Meridien hotel chain shares nursing a 28p fall to looked near. Accor, the French group, decided to make it strength from its US presenting it had nut to eather the known it had put together the resources to buy Meridien. tations, climbing 3p to 244p.

Perpetual, the fund man-Gerard Pelisson, joint chairman, said: "We are still awaiting Granada's offer terms but when they come we will be bid rumours, a German strike, be assumed that its talks with

to slash its Forte debt mountain by September Granada gal & General could be seen could feel a Meridien sale is its as a likely constraint on Perbest option. The 86-strong chain, which has also attracted former Forte chief Sir Rocco Forte, should be worth

more than £700m. Stories Hanson was on the verge of selling its stake in Na-tional Grid failed to be substantiated and Grid shares fell 3.5p to 198p.

Imperial Chemical Indus-tries flat quarterly results - and its failure to acknowledge any share buy-back plans - left the

To honour its commitment ant unit trust sales. However, petual's seemingly relentless

Ibstock's emergence as an important bricks player lifted the shares 11p to 85.5p. Greenalls, on the Pannure Gordon recommendation,

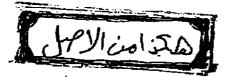
gained 13.5p to 629.5p.

Ladbroke remained a centre of attraction although the failure of the long mooted bid left the shares nursing a 2.5p fall to 203p. Turnover was again beauty signalling that again heavy, signalling that some sort of action may not be

far away.
It is difficult to imagine how much longer the Ladbroke Perpetual, the fund management group, was back in the limelight with a 132p gain to 2,345p. It was the usual mix of bid rumours, a German strike TAKING STOCK

Harvey Nichols, the trendy London department store, is expected to enjoy a bumper session when trading starts today. The shares were placed at 270p and a 300p-plus level is expected. The market demonstrated its appetite for attractive new issues when it embraced Millennium & embraced Millennium & Copthorne Hotels and Phytopharm, a medicine developer. The hotel group, placed at 278p. closed at 332p and Phytopharm, offered at 175p. touched 185p, ending at 178p.

Brent Walker, the battered remains of George Walker's empire, is proving there is life after death. The shares rose 0.5p to 4p, highest for two years. Assets, largely the William Hill betting shops and the Pubmaster pubs chain, are insufficient to cov-



The Greenbury effect – is it pushing pay higher?

Could the Greenbury rules that force disclosure of the full details of pay at the top of Britain's corporate hierarchy be about to prompt another upward ratchet in board-room earnings? room earnings?

Some directors of large companies are already claiming that the latest crop of annual reports is encouraging rather than restraining pay rises, because they set out in such detail the remuneration packages of every director on the board.

A lot of people have assumed that complete transparency on pay would embarrass the fat cals out of existence and give new leverage to institutional shareholders to impose restraint on directors.

The contrary view is that there is no better way of making a long-serv-ing and loyal executive director restless about his pay than constant publication of the details of the packages of people in comparable jobs in other companies. Many company reports now have half a dozen pages

of details about executive rewards. Furthermore, those who change jobs tend to increase their carnings faster than those who stay, which makes long-serving directors still more restless.

When annual reports published and the highest-paid director (whose name they were not obliged to disclose) there was much less information available for individual directors to make judgements about their positions on the pay ladder.

This could, of course, be yet another self-serving argument for putting the brakes on the Greenbury handwagon. After all, a rearguard action by the Confederation of British Industry against disclosure of the full



ECONOMIC VIEW PETER RODGERS

sions seems to be on the point of succeeding. That could take the teeth out of a central Greenbury recommendation. On the other hand, there is evidence that greater circulation of information is already responsible for accelerating board-

room pay increases. Comparisons of earnings at the top are far from a new phenomenon. There was and still is a whole industry of remuneration specialists researching the going rate for senior jobs. They acted as consultants to the

disclosure - and therefore a more open and liquid market in top executives - is helpful to those who justify high pay increases on the grounds that the rates are set by an open market for top talent.
Ignore the market rate and you

lose you best people; make the market work better and more transparently and you have a respectable justification for paying the going rate, however high it may be.

In theory, a once-and-for-all improvement in the flow of informa-

more years ahead.

Greater circulation of information is responsible for accelerating pay rises

Interest Rates

board, advising what executive directors should be paid.

Board remuneration committees assumed they must pay above the median salary for the job to attract and keep the best talent. Since most aimed for the same objective, the median automatically rose.

It is therefore hard to dismiss out of hand claims that the far greater degree of disclosure imposed after the Greenbury report could accelerate this process by ramming home for executives exactly what they and their competitors earn. The shop floor used to call such pay rises parity claims, and they were very destructive, especially in the motor

tion inside a marketplace ought to adjust the prices paid, as any broker will tell you. Unfortunately, pay tends to ratchet in one direction, which is upwards. There is little pressure to cut back the rewards of those who may be overpaid already, but there tends to be much less resistance to increases. Executive pay will ad-

just upwards not downwards. If this is correct, we may not see many signs of Greenbury-inspired restraint when the results of the current executive pay round are analysed in detail later this year. Indeed, the Greenbury report has a built-in mechanism that could keep remuneration in the best-performing companies rising strongly for Greenbury, while at the

gestion that it is a good idea to re-place share options, notorious for rewarding directors for movements in the stock market rather than improvements in performance, with properly constructed long-term performance schemes maturing three or The advantage of a well con-

structed long-term performance scheme is that it pays only on the basis of results, Most institutional shareholders are perfectly happy with big pay rises on the boards of the companies they own if directors' performance is seen to justify them.

But when those schemes pay out, some will make recent awards look modest. Will the rest of the body politic, and especially a Labour cabinet looking for reforms of corporate governance and perhaps higher top marginal tax rates, have the same understanding as fund managers?

ICI set up a performance-related long-term scheme for Sir Ronnie Hampel, its chairman, in 1993, well before the Greenbury report was thought of. It came to fruition last year with a £425,000 payment, so Sir Ronnie took home 42 per cent more than a year earlier, although his basic salary dropped as he changed from chief executive to chairman.

As a performance reward, after a demerger of ICI, the overall package was perfectly acceptable in Greenbury terms. But it looked bad in the headlines, particularly as Sir Ronnie is chairing the new corporate governance committee that will monitor the Greenbury rules.

Looking ahead, British Aerospace set up a long-term performance scheme, in accordance with



Feeding frenzy: Lunchtime at this week's institute of Directors convention at the Albert Hall. nation about colleagues' pay makes directors restless about their own Photograph: Edward Webb

announcing modest single-figure pay rises for its directors this year. Assuming that BAc performs well, there could be some hefty rises in remuneration to report in a few years' time. Will this be another case of a long-term performance scheme that looks good at the start but attracts flak when it pays out?

There is hardly anybody, even among those on company boards most worried about the impact of the new levels of disclosure, who believes

So if companies want to justify the rewards coming through from longterm incentive schemes over the next few years they will have to think rather carefully about how they implement and justify the schemes.

The performance criteria for longterm bonuses will have to be extremely demanding. Most of them are incomprehensible without an analyst and an actuary at your elbow. so ways will have to be found to make them more easily understood.

levels of disclosure, with the annual report giving measurements of the directors' achievements to set alongside their bonuses, spelling out every detail of the reasons for the payment. Companies are in deep on disclosure.

but will be forced still deeper. Whether full disclosure turns Britain into a country in which high rewards for high performance are generally acceptable is another question altogether. We will see when those new long-term incentive

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European Bolinc	98.09	9947 8543	88 686	Framilingto 155 Bichope	g Volt Mag gas, London 1 4100, Desii	EC254 3	fT		High Incom
Exempt Financial	9750	1043	257	American	4100, Death	ng 0171 : 8084		4000	Global Str
500	525.4 324.6	5691 3475	239 0251	(Accum Ur		8084 7069	9613 7540	9000	Emerging in Global Mar
General Property	2455	2834 2390	d825 i	Amer Smir (Accum Un	(CO8	7222	7724 4178	Q126	Global Mar Gold & Inti
Trusted Involve Trusts	223.7		532	Capital Tel (Accum Un		392.7 573.7	610.3	d138	Global Utili
Cash Acc Cash inc	122D 1003	1220 1003	d5.32	Count 5 mile	Cos	66.25 69.61	70.78 74.68	074 074	American
	7142 1356	114.7 145.1	d612 d483	(Accum Un Conventible	1	1449	541 3271	502 502	European Euro Sei O
Extra income Get & Fed int*	57.25	59.27	82 464	(Accum Un Emerging)	(US) Asrigeos	3075 7329	7630	0.00	American 6 Hong Kong
ncome Income Builder	592.4 70.21	633B 7489	526	<i>U</i> lecum Un	ns)	7354 1486	78.57 165.6	000 035	Japan
wei (ACOM)	7202	75.62	284	European (Accum Un	is)	1542 7906	153.5 80.47	035 247	Pacific Gro Gertmore
Growth Trusts - UK Capital	1405	500 4469	213 231	Example Se (Accum Un	ita) Suces	8398	85.48 4077	2 <i>41</i> 373	Long Term
Greath Acc Legure (2)	4190 1805	1930	0.63	Extra Incor (Accum Un	ne	3632 5984	6345	273	Med Term
Recovery	4901 6704	5242 7190	2,99 199	Pinencial		630 1733	1734 1844	40.40 40.40	TK Ewedin
Smitr Cos Acc Smitr Cos Inc	5779 3916	6196 4168	199 14	(Accum Un Gill Trust		62.81 95.29	6486 8626	6875 6875	American Japan
Special Sits Greath Trusts - Over	200		ഷ	(Accum Un Health Fun	as) dan€	2901	3099	000	European Index Links
America Amer Recovery Acc	1284 1284	1950 1968		Heelth Full	g voc	2901 2314	2482	317	Food Next
Aust Acc	301J 1815	3212 1936	192	(Accum Lin	rts)	3618 4570	3849 4877	317 2000	Amer Emer Pacific
Aust Inc Euro Gwith Acc	2079	2207 2044	055 055	Accum Un		6075	54L5 2106	6000 000	Emerging N Index Street
Euro Gwith and Japan & Gen Acc	1734	1836		Japan & G (Accum Un	3ñ	1981 2001	2127	000 425	inches Strati
landi & Geri Inc	1714 7907	1915 83.76	ا ه	Med Datific	riscu mc	54.95 5772	581 (FLD1	425	Indian Strat
Jacan Spec Site Vioritimate	2041	267	052	(Accum Un Managed P		1237	1302 1414	राह्य चाह्य	Oversees B Gartevore
Moridade Also knosm as Income i Baring Fund Manager	agenager r	-		(Accust Un Monthly Inc	(C)	932	2055 6210	d452 429	Menaged 5
an ang 231. 198 sasanya	gsts,		i	Cuprisity I	COTTO	6789 64.76	6948 4084	429 006	Long Term
ondon 602M JYS eq: 0171 762 8450		1366	20	(Accum Un Recovery		3819 4509	482.2	006 206	LIK Emergin Amencan
American Growth American Smitr Cos	175£	685	<u>0</u> 0 j	(Accom Un		6662 2060	70.97 75.11	206	Japan
Courieuscens	6159 3277	6591 352.7	649 63	(Account Un	(e)	The second Second	anagera	Lid	European Rupd trees
Equity Income	0654	103.2 4009	438 08	Friends Pro	o, issuperi	B _{ristopi} R w	d.		inde. Links Deposit
European Growth Europe Select	377.2 3351	3562	19					50	Emerging M Pacific
	1054	2083 1040	30 80				15740 14300	123	Broker Unit
Comment Growth	8791	90.25 73.48	65 65				2900	244 244	BWH Interne
Global Borro Global Gravith	7061 152.7	1621 2363	64	Cap Gwon Un	Pi Nesene inc Si Greta vez	25.90	135.00 130.80	341	De (Accum) Brissolif inc
Limiter Growth	2219 1841	1963	00	Open Cap	an Stage of the page of pri	2950	27770	3,44	Do (Accum) Ortugal! We
Japan Suntee Kores Bust	8323	9093	23	יייו אווון פרט	_	60.57	6443 7190	0.33 0.33	Show Utilitie
Portfolio Portfolio Acc	775.7	2952	29		,,	6759 21100	27560	000	Govett (John
UK Grandy	9713	139.2 135.5	#25 J	ED YOUR O	CHIEF .	30000 31200	32080	000	4 Bertie Bridg Tel: 0171 378
UK Smaler Cus Seect Managers	9100	9754	419	دار مسم	25)	(1980)	46130 ⇔140	900 000	LIK Equity in LIK Small Co
Charles Fund	£23T.	7929	61	40 - 10 A	31	278600 27860	29120	d020	Briggin Gaper American G
		gers	į	77 E137 SE 12 F13 F13 E13 12 F13 E13	5 1	30240 15400	32170 48290	247	Japan Geth
Preside Portions (177	, ,,,,,,,,,,		j 195€ }	20 S	_, ;	-44 OF	100720 TIA-30	247 187	Greater Chin Pacific Street
Income Funds	#30 #30	3025	أ 1624	^{مرا} ⊤منتید با :ی باروس	si Kanco re	(920 10920	11430	187	European Gr
Party Excelled Exploy Income ACC Language	-1.78	44.12	d640 d640	1	AND PARTS	60.67 164.40	84# 17390	483 483	US Index
From Cost	₹3.9 43.9	5243	235			957	4217 6156	0.36 0.36	FISE Mid 2
Monthly Figure 7 - 1	- (- 20	56 4E	وكك		•	57119			Carried III

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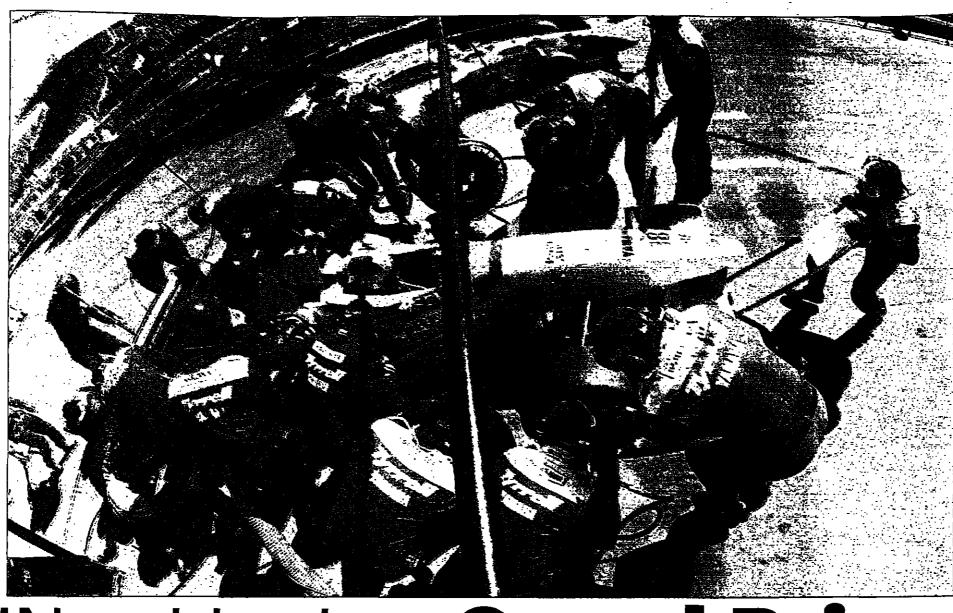
				Lat	est	Ų	nit	1
	Sell	Buy	YM	Stock	Self	Buy	YId	Į
Sm Cos Accur thly Distribution	п 75.70	352.20 80.78	020 #557	Hang Kong Index Hang Kong Beer	083603 08 <i>97</i> 82	29548	350	ł
Units) ing Deposit	192,50 10040	141.40 100.40	557 6535	UK Index Jecen Index	£138873 £12.2083	C128002	0.00	ļ
Unita) o	TG70 92.28	11370	6.35 0.00	UŠ Index Cash	C18.9352 C9.5023	\$189885 \$86403		1
Units)	83.22 42.11	9943 4516	000 22.55	UK Beer Japan Bear	083234 089888	086755 E94770	475	ı
(Jants)	5124	5494	252	US Bear	28,0592	\$73500	350	1
Growth (Jindha)	195.70 388.50	41440	24	Doller Buf Dollar Beer	265459	C15.9758 DE9096	475	١
istilp Linits)	43110 53660	458.60 570.80	163 183	GR Bull GR Beer	28.8144 28.8144	(12.0029 171912	475 475	١
ip inc Units)	83.79 112.50	8973 11960	460 460	Legal & General (UT	Mariage	(a)		1
dship Units)	127.00	13610 14420	063 063	5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, I Enquiries: 01277 22730 Cash Accum	C Desilogs 5810	91277 6 9 5870		ı
o Fund Mane			_	Equity Dist	57270	609.30	262	ı
House, Numeral St., Low	don ECSF	1 200		Equity Accum Equity Income	TIE7700 108:00	1241.00 172.80	4.60	Į
782 2000 Daeil with Funds		1277-2844		UK Taction Allocation European	14500	68.29 154.30	108	١
kowin mi	6033 143.73	6437 143.73	177 d533	For Eastern Prend Interest	32:60 52:82	288.70 56.20	6722	ł
l inv (inc) um)	725.22 295.32	13393 31585	d253 d253	Gilt Global Growth	68.70 68.70	9339 9436	d6.50 0.41	İ
	17785	178.54 188.62	d\$15 D&1	inti Bond Japanese	55.56 81.04	5897 86.21	505	ļ
ler Cos Funde	17638	24.92	4331	North American Pactic Growth	21100	22450 13780	0.67 d0n8	1
eki Ome	24.0E 34.58	36.85	509 409 409	LIK Index	75.61 113.80	7939 12110	0201	1
ty income land	15732 30,40	166.26 37.51	292 36	UK Recovery UK Smeler Cos	182.20	17250	111	1
ionel Funds g Markets	4934	52.77	d000	UK Stockmarket Acc US Index	68.73 82.67	69.73 87.25	188 132	1
leneged* nt/ Res	155.83 126.41	166.82 135.20	d122	European Index Japan Index	92.48 45.80	9780 4834	173	l
tifiles s Punds	15149	16166	134	Worldwide Lioyda Bank Unit Tru	10050	10890	138	l
n n	20219 13571	214.92 143.85	0.88 0.70	Mountenten House, Clu	othern, Ker		F	ı
Оррь	20450	21707	000 000	Tet: 01634 636000 Deals Balanced Inc	40070	42630	2.99	1
n Émerging ng	175.28 162.86	187 <i>4</i> 7 174.06	182	Balanced ACC Conf Europe Gr Inc	93530 8167	895.00 86.97	239 045	ı
rowth	27408 24501	29136 26204	000 000	Conti Europe Gr Aco Extra Income Inc	878 0 28730	92.52 206.70	0.45 400	ı
u Pensione S Equity	280,85	28086	d192	Extra income Acc FT-SE 100 Inc	772,90 119,00	822.20 129.80	400 258	ŀ
m Bal n:Bal	279.73 228.20	27923 22820	d2,78 d2,98	FT-SE 100 Acc German Growth Inc	12100 13590	129.80 143.10	269	ł
y ging Co's	29806 162:11	29906 18211	239 182	German Growth Acc Growth Portfolio Inc	14250 67430	15000 71740		1
1	32U9 14798	32139 14796	d1010	Growth Pontiolio Acc	694 40 85.56	73880	d795	l
1	34929 17960	349.29	d081 d2.71	High Interest Inc High Interest Acc	9514	10170	795	l
icad (Giff Treet	168.27 400.70	168,27 400,70	6.53 d0.00	income inc frooms Acs	54210 52700	57880 162500	4839 838	ļ
nerging Cos	268.05	20895	0.00	Income Portiolio Inc Income Portiolio Acc	61180	\$86.20 650.70	446 446	Į
Mikts et Jepan et Pacific Rim	194.34 187.70	134.34 167.70	0.21 0.09	Jupan Growth Inc Japan Growth Acc Monter Trust Inc	TERSO 72020	12750 12790		П
at Pacific Rim at Contl Eu	218,79 188,45	218.79 196.45	139 168	Master Trust finc Measer Trust Acc	68.36 77.68	72.75 82.64	119 119	J
et USA Bond Strateg	196.72 v 109.36	166.72 109.38	175 d518	American & Gen inc American & Gen Aco	244.30 282.40	25290 30050		ľ
a Personal Pe Equity	resion Fu 12271	radiz 130.54	. '	Am Sm Cos & Rec Inc. Am Sm Cos & Rec Acc	210.70	224.20 228.80		1
n Balanced m Balanced	10548	1539	: 1	Pacific Basin inc Pacific Basin Acc	29310 312.20	311.96 352.20		Ĺ
ing Cos	138.25 36.28	14707 9070	:	Smelir Cos & Rec Inc Smelir Cos & Rec Aco	513.90 698.90	54100 73820	156 156	l
J	149.58 7064	15806 75.15	:	LIK Equity Growth	16210	17250 18430	d2.70 d436	ļ
	144.70	5354	- 1	UK Growth income	126.20 134.30	111.00	189	1
rast ext Gilt	38.15 79.76	9185 8484	:	UK Growth Acc Worldwide Growth Inc Worldwide Growth Acc	129.50 378.10	13780 40020	189	1
Markes	65.74 6099	9121 5434	:	Worldwide Growth Acc Premier Exempt	555.80 168.30	59130 17610	296	1
nit Trusts	55.08	58.59		Lloyds Exempt Umbri Europeun Acc	ella Trust 22340	232,80	150	l
mational Sh Pinio inc :	155.00 74.42	7654	d0.69 0.60	Fer Eastern Acc Jacen Acc	78 <i>4</i> 7 5533	82.53 5792	155	1
n) na P iol io ine	75.24 62.61	79.41 86.08	080	North American Acc UK Equity Acc	23790 29040	24620 30430	152 304	l
m) Ywdde Pilolic	6883 6504	7264 i	#850 000	UK Small Cos Acc	15020	150.00	181	٦
bes	6900	72.00	325	M & G Securities Limit NAG House, Visionia Fice	d. Chebra	ford CNH	159	
olon) Unit Mar dge Lace, Leon	ion SE1 2		-	Arrer & Gerneral	595£	245 3843 665.7	035	1
	10233	11008 ·c		(Accum Units) Amer Recovery	6693 5923	7070 6284	036 029	
Ceis parth	85,89 59,48	7420	278	(Accum Units) Amer Smir Cos	6824 1735	721B 1638	029	1
· · ·	298.39 73.45	21899 7865	900 900	(Accum Unite) Australesien	1773 2048	1878 2164	195	1
ing.	20032	242	CHES .	(Accum Units)	2550	2507	195	
alegy Garth	15.50		1248	Capital (Accum Units)	9979 11758	10553 12435	273 273	
2	17672 17672	4473	400	Charifund (Accust Units)	7653 37954	7730 38334	589 569	P
250 Irdez Conte	94.77 41.71	10135	27	Commodity (Accum Units)	5439 8020	5762 8483	027 027	ŀ
	42060 £ 11273	1500m	475 j	Compound Growth	1002.7 1192.0	1635	ළුනු .	7
era Crust Deallog:			ا ۵۵۵	(Aççum (Units) Corporase Bond	24.61	2500 24.70	#283 #80	
			•					

L	Irust		ces	S				
ld.	Sinck	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	
58 50	Dividend (Accum Units)	4630 2010	48.80 212.8	43 43	Income Wwide Recovery Inc	42504 48368	45459 6029	
75	Equity Income (Accum Units)	3641 4931	3850 6214	4.B	White Recovery Acc American Growth Inc	48445 32099	51814 34216	
90 50 55	Europeen & General	647B	8851	081	American Growth Acc	32099	34216	
75	(Accum Unes) European Dividend	826 <i>2</i> 83.70	8738 6850	Q\$1 3.46	European (3wth Inc European Gwth Acc	179.94 180.56	19218 18279	
io So	(Accum Units) Extra Yield	1040 4616	110.0 488.1	3.46 d4.92	inti Emerging Cos Inc Inti Emerging Cos Acc	30729 30749	328,66 328,87	
50 50 75	(Accum Units) For Eastern	15201 408.7	16075 432.2	6432 217	Far Eastern Growth Inc	33492	358.21 35951	
5	(Accum Units)	545.2	5766	217	UK Growth Inc	112.68	17052	
75	Fund of inv Tata (Accum Units)	722E 13729	784 <i>2</i> 14519	177	LIK Growth ACC High Income	12102 11213	12944 11893	
	General (Accum Units)	70x0 203.7	7430 2158	363 363	Japanese Geth Inc Japanese Geth Acc	23891 23891	26521 25521	
5	Gitt income (Accum Units)	80.44 977.9	6053 17736	72 72	PEP Growth PEP Bond	14933 5051	15967 5265	
2	Gold	87.70	9270	205	Asian Smir Mits Inc Asian Smir Mits Acc	14779	15807	
10 18	(Accum Units) High Income	1041 2330	παι 3520	105 455 455	American Smoller Cos	148.14 hc:20910	15844 22364	
Œ	(Accum Units) - int Growth	1991 9630	1477.3 101.8	0.81	American Smir Cos Ac Global Bond	5788	223.54 60.70	
2	(Accum Units) International Inc	1695 1131	179.1 119.5	0.81 d4.4	UK Smaller Cos Inc UK Smaller Cos Acc	109.91 115.01	11691	
10 4	(Accum Units)	977 4560	1873 4810	644	Money Acc Latin American Greth In	5396	5395 3730	
5	Japan & Gen (Accum Links)	48.90	8180		Latin American Gerth A	003499	37A3	
7 8	Japan Smaller Cos (Accum Units)	1502 1603	1683 1685		Exempt Funds UK Exempt	374.14	40016	
ĭ	Managed Growth Managed Income	2810 3040	2960 3190	1 <u>57</u> 640?	Prudential Unit Trusts	35333	35818	
П	(Accum Lines)	6700 2324	7080 2468	d314 d214	61-89 Mord Hill, Stand, Ed	nex, IG1	2DL	
2 8	Pension Ex	1095.9	11227	437	Managed 184 Cash Haven Inc	4650 10167	48.19 102.16	
3	Recovery (Accum Units) Second General	6080 8850	53.70 8040	254 254	Cash Haven Acc Dist inc	T16.88 106.35	117A5 11021	
8	(Accum Units)	7930 211.6	83.60 224.0	274 374	Dist Acc Global Growth	11773 10920	12200 12617	i
	Smaller Cos (Accum Units)	75.70 1549	2000 1638	305 305	Prudential Equity Inc.	94.24	10026	
9	Treasury	2507	2512	d5.76	Equity Prudensial European	87361 26952	929.37 279.30	
8	Trustee (Accum Units)	44.20) 1877	46.70 1968	d468 d488	High Income ind Grith	93.76 230.84	99.74 246.57	
5	Martin Currie Unit Tru 20 Castle Terrace,	لبخاعاته			ind Sm Co Japanese	99.70 246.68	10606 25563	•
0	Edinburgh, SH1 223 Tet 0131 225 5252, Deci				Nth Amer Pacific Wats	241.61 127.45	25033 13207	
8	ind income	8421	89.39	d\$75	Premier inc	4339	487	
•	Europeen (z) (ncome	1049 8542	171.4 9068	074 428	Sm Cos Spec Sits	174.81 729.66	12214 13817	
	Nith American (2) Far East (2)	9491 193 <i>8</i>	100.8 205.5	003	LK Growth	14796	157/40	
5	Japan Emerging Markets	67.76 93.67	71.93 1004	ď	Save & Prosper Secur 16-22 Western Road,			
5	nd Growth	135.2	495	90.70	Routord, Essex RM1 318 Tek 01708-798986			
B	LK Growth Asian Opportunities	122.7 42.26	129.7 46.20	236 026	Arner Inc & Genth Amer Smitr Cos	918	97DQ	•
6	UK Smaller Cos Globel Growth PEP	62.59 63.59	96,44 6707	140	Asian Smaller Cos Ceptral Pontolio	4830 1617	5245 1614	
.	Newton Fund Manage				UK & Oversees	2025	254 1328	
5	71 Quesa Victoria St, Lor Cileras 0500 550000 Broi	1909 1524 1917 0500 8	413H. 80000		China Dragon	65.63	89.82	•
- !	Desling 0500 440000 American	5490	5840	000	Commodity Eastern Discovery	1687 1207	1795 1284	
1	American Acc Bridge	96.90	58.85 105.21	000 234	Emerging Markets Energy Ince	4091 1885	4352 1739	
- 1	Cash Income	6774 6087	873A 5097	552	European Chrith Euro Inc & Grith	2364 355	2515 1018	
	Distributor	104.48	mts	d287	Euro Smilir Co's	72A8	7721	
;	Europeen Foundation	65.27 108.96	58.80 115.91	0,00 d2,46	Exempt Income Extra Income	1568 5566	15945 58445	
:	Gereral Giobal	222.53 396.77	236.73 422.10	154 d000	Financial Secs High Income	2729 4824	290.9 46.24	
•	Growth.	14432	5353 5561	d2.41	Gold & Exploration	132.7 259.3	1412 2758	
	Growth Aco Higher Income Inc	310	3908	deal	High Return High Yeld	2610	277.7	,
۱ ۱	Higher Income Acc Income	3738 28214	3955 278.87	0489 0338	income inti Bond	1944 1715	1817	
1	international Bond Impopid	12784 14871	135.65 152.20	612 181	ITU Japan Growth	244.7 1972	2603 2098	•
	Japan Crienzel Ace	2965 17411	31.54 185.22	000 050	Japan Smaller Korea	1989 68JD	21LB 72.45	
: {	Oriental Income	687	(795)	0,60	Latin America	3991	4246	
'Ι	Personal inti Gwth Northern Rock Unit Tr	3799 14d atau	40.41	9000	Mesterfund Scottilis	67.40 408.0	67.74 4340	
-	Bulsten House, Regard C	antre, Gos	dorth		Scotsheres Scotylekis	3549 2810	3776 2989	
:	Newcastin upon Type NE Telephona: (0181) 286 25	76			Select Ind Smaller Cos Inc	1825 2703	1729	
	Rock Managed Northern Rock High Inc	159 2004797	1225 50.76	2:3 680	SE Asta	59,70	6245	•
۱ (Pendroka Administral	don Utd			Southern Africa Special Stuation	6435 683	68.4E 1695	
. 1	37-41 Bedford Rew, Lond Telephone & Dealing: 017	M 813 224	4		UK Equity UK Growth	292.7 79.77	3114 84.85	
	Peritoria Growth	31069	256.05	d132 d000	UK Smir Cos Gwth	61.27	6518 2277	
1	Pembroke World Acc Pembroke Balanced	96.36 215.58	22934	d3.09 .	U.S. Growth Univ Growth	2140 1858		
	Pembroka Eq Income	12597	13330	G4.78	Schroder Unit Trusts L	td .		
	Perputual Unit Trust M Perputual Has	EIGHNE LE	•		Senator Hae, BS Cases Vis ECOV 4EJ			4
ા								
1	Hentey on Themes				Clients: 0899 526 636 Bro.	KBIT UPUN	220 SAN	
		720:8	799£3 772£5	Q44 Q44	Retall Funds American	335.62 369.24	355.34 350.94	

White Sugar	Freight.		Wheel	Co	m		
LCE S/tonne	LCE SIDA	ndex pt	LCE_	£/tonne (2	OT Cents/	fbushel Set	
May 363.60	Mar	1465	May	131.90			
Aug 340.20	Apar	1399	'n	134.15 Ms			900 200
Oct 33150	Vol.	164	Sep				400
Vol 1905	index	1462	Volt	806 Se	P 30400302	<i></i> 30	-440
Other So	44.0						
Other 30	115						
Mar Mage (N	03)** 5 /k	****	ma	\ MayiJul Sc	ME ONE FLING	(Olers	9950
Apr/May Copra (1		2776	1950		conut Oil (†) S/Id		8000
	YY) USce		84.25		milower Oilo S/to		63000
June Wool	Acen		646D		peseed ONSFL1		100.25
April Rubber*	Moan	nt/kg	366.5	Apr/May Gr	oundnut Oil \$/to	me (905.00
Origin: \$DubtyEC -	anny onger -	(Philipinos	Indonesia '	Malayata N Europe	Source: FT Informs	don/Fla.com	
-							
							- ·
:							_
Stock	Sel	Buy	Yld	Stock	Self	Buy	Yld
European Gwth	9203	9745	0.82	Stewart luory	Unit Trust Mars	Lad	
(Accum Units)	9672	102.42	0.82	45 Charlotte Sq	, Ecoloborgh (1-12 4)	rw.	
Euro Smir Cos (Accum Units)	110,68 112.15	11755 1904	024	Destroy & Enqu American	Hea: 0131 226 327 551.7	T 5852	
Far Eastern Gwith	12058	128£1	000	(Accum Unites)	65W)	690.5	
(Accum Units) Git & Post Interest	122.90 5100	13109 53.74	0.00 d7:74	British (Accum Units)	1293.3 2474.1	19685 26178	2.88
(Accum Units)	74.39	7839	d774	Emerging Max	itento 182.5	1731	286 065
Global Bond	5320	5497	6.77	Accum Units	163.5	1781	085
(Accum Units) Global Erner Mikts	6162 59.85	63,68 63,63	877 d000	European (Accum Unts)	6876 7715	7306 8197	086 086
(Accum Units)	5993	63.82	d000	Japan	1496	158B	d
(Accum Units)	411.89 1384.54	439.34 1455.52	500 500	(Accum Links) New Pacific	1508 469.5	1601 5000	096
Japan Smir Cos	48318	55.33	000	(Accum Units)	5005	5330	096
(Accum Unes) Japan Enjerorisa	48415 7803	91842 8109	0.00 0.000	Investment Ts	268.0	2841	d0.B3
(Accum Units)	7603	\$109 8109	4600	(Accum (Jinita) Mingd Equity	308.7 212.5	3273 2248	063 150
Pacific Gwth	16769	178.86	039	Mingd Equity A	loc 2393	2531	150
(Accum Links) Secul	173.70 56.49	185.27 5918	029	Mingo Cash (Accum Units)	9565 1430	95 <i>6</i> 6 1430	0549 549
(Accum Units)	5549	59.1B	0.00	Son Lite Trus			343
Granier Cos (Accum Units)	299.48 363.87	31944 37746	0.90 0.90	PO Box 1810, D Bristol 18589 55	epi RPO,		
Takyo	14147	160.90	4000	Bristol 18989 56	N 1844 Deelingu: 8171	. 600 0040	
(Accum Units) UK Enterprise	14290	152.48	dano	Amer Growth	Acc 90.98	9854	0.07
(Accum Úmasi	33778 412.44	360 <i>2</i> 7 43993	198 198	Cap Protector Cap Protector	inc 48.73 Acc 8007	49.71 63.90	d280
UK Equity	30248	32264	238	Distribution in	27.55	2930 2930	42.80 340
(Accum Units) US Smir Cos	60136 23755	64445 253.38	238 000	Distribution At		3071	340
(Accum Units)	23755	25339	200	Emerging Max Euro Growth	Note Acc 22.65 Not 107.42	24.10 112.74	0.00
Portfolio (Accum Units)	96.05 106.03	102.45 113.08	1.76 1.76	Fer East Gwrti	Acc 17136	162:30	000
Institutional Funds		1000	LIB	Jepen Growth Maga Extra in		19081 3789	9513 9500
Europeen (Accum Units)	29484 33124	30594 34371	127 127	Mingd Extra In	COMB ACE 4448	4728	6 .13
i Buro Sm#r Cos	38.57	3614	120	Mngd Growth Mngd High Ye	Acc 114.38 Hd Inc 88.03	121.59 93.65	000 446
(Accum Units) (Slobel Equity Inc	3840 9580	4038	120	Mogd High Ye	#dAcc 11788	12541	446
(Accum Lines)	10114	9979 10535	d0.88 d0.88	Mangdinc & G	thinc 86,74	92.28	3,32
Japan Smilr Cos	41,74	43.47	007	Mingd Inc & G Discretionary	Portibile Anag	115,61 64,78	3.32
(Accum Units) Mnga Balanced	4209 22724	4384 23670	007 2.78	Pacific Growth Ad	Portiolio 55.32	5885	068
(Accum Linits)	2649E	275.99	278	Uk Income Inc	59.35	3782 6314	2.30 3.24
(Accum Units)	232.85 243.20	242.55 253.33	107 107	UK Income Ad UK Smaller Co	20.06	9676	3.24
(O'seas Smilir Cols	154.94	16139	094			4459	172
(Accum Units) Pacific	163.27 299.34	170.07 311.70	084 d102	Switch Column 2	Managers Lid Queen Street, Lor	ndon EC44	L TAY
(Accum Units)	33173	345.65	d102	Tel: 0171-246 \$	00, Dealing: 0171 ;	348 3001	
(Accum Units)	2386.79 259036	2486.23 2698.28	279 279	(Accum Units)	pe Bd 44.92 71.95	48.70 74.82	60 60
LIK Index	185.53	93.26	325	Europeen	34010	35612	d0. 7
(Accum Unite) UK Small Cos	233.41 141.78	24334	. 325	(Accum Units) Exempt	££147	362-20 68134	d07
(Accum Units)	15564	1476B 18212	241 241	(Accum Units)	225750	2350.37	dzē
US Smir Cos	5861	7146	d058	Global Emergi (Accum Units)	100.96	96.48 105.71	803 801
(Accum Units)	70.28 - 1 51	7318	d058	Japan Tst	6890	93.De	QU.
Singer & Friedlande 21 New Street, London,	EC24 4HR	1 12 12 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13		(Accum Units) Liftée Dragons	8890 80506	930 <u>8</u> 11003	
Tel: 0171 867 6777, Day	Bing: 0171 (26 5225	_	(Accum Units)	10817	113.26	
American Growth	15187 6900	131,87 69,00	d	Ath Amer Ger (Accum Units)	27250	31112 390.38	26 26
European	16542	1642	d028	Oriental Incon	9 5024	62.60	d3 3
Global Bond Samural	90.26 63.65	32.26 63.65	68.13 D	(Accum Units) Proference	98.53 128.55	7280 13460	d3.1 d3.1
Starling Reserve	10034	10034	d620	Accum Urgis	756.17	79180	d9 1
Tai Pan UK Growth	112.72 113.18	T2.72 T318	d d2-30	(Accum Units)	323.75 340.13	33900 35635	
UK Emerging Leaders	11340	TI340	42.37	UK Blue Chap	7E47	7902	19
Preferred Income	10953 75.26	10953	481 6880	(Accum Unde) UK Growth	8230 65045	8617 68109	19
LIK Equity Income Investment Trust	116.20 116.64	1544	Q043	(Account Unglis)	1498.00	56868	22
Stager & Friedlands	r Link Wgr	s Ltd	-	UK High Yeald (Accum Units)	112.34 38735	17753	450
European Trust	98.BÕ	82.33	107	UK Med-Can	33013	40560 345 <i>6</i> 8	d50 d24
Fig Eastern Tist Global Growth PEP	7603 7690	8068 8393	025 118	(Accum Units)	631,36	66110	d2.4
Investment Trust PEP	5726	60.91	000	(Accum Units)		139.71 165.78	d07
Preferred Income Smaller Cos	104.4 265.0	110a 2819	a550 108	UK Smaller Co	5 Div 9244	96.79	55
Standard Life Unit T				(Accum Units)	16876	176.71	55
POBox 141,1 Tembeld,E		KISRG		Key			
(m)0295777 Standard Life Fund	Magnit Lie				ex dividend		
Giobal Advantage Inc	4792	48.19	150		exit charge wh	an unite	sold
Global Advantage Ac	5192 3592	521 <u>0</u> 3810	1.50 c3.33		omerly offer		
Incomé Advantage le		41.42	333		ormerly bid		
Income Adventage in Income Adventage Ad	x: 4121		134		Non SIÉ recog	nised fu	nds
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Income Adventage in Income Adventage Ad LIK Equity Gift Acc Premier Income Inc Premier Income Acc Managed Acc	9490 9490 4936 503 6320	50.90 52.77 67.00	4781 781 130	Copies of	the most rece	ant mana	
Income Adventage in Income Adventage Ad LIK Equity Gift Acc Premier Income Acc Managed Acc UK Eq High Inc Inc	9490 9490 4936 503 6320 4054	5090 52.77 6700 42.98	4781 781 130 6405	Copies of reports a	the most rece nd scheme par	ent mana roculars	are
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RICHARD EDMONDS

PLAY FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM





April 28 San Marino GP May 5 **Monaco GF** May 19 Spanish GP June 2 Canadian GP June 16 French GP June 30 **British GP** July 14 German GP

July 28 **Hungarian GF** August 11 **Beigian GP** August 25 **Italian GP** September 8 Portuguese GP September 22 Japanese GP October 13

WIN a drive in a Grand Prix car

rmula 1 Dream Team is just like Fantasy Foothall: you pick and manage your dream grand prix team to score points over the coming season.

Even though the grand prix season not too late to join in: pit your wits against other

enthusiasts and you could win our overall 1996 champion's prize, a drive in a Formula One car plus additional prizes for each

Your team must comprise three drivers, a chassis and an engine: your budget is

£40 million. Make your selections from the grand prix shopping list printed below; the only restriction is that your third driver must come from the £1 million category.

Details of how to enter are given on this page. You can enter a team at any point during the grand prix season but the earlier you enter, the greater your chances of being our overall champion. Remember, there are prizes for the winning Dream Team in each individual grand prix so you can enter a different team for each

HOW YOU SCORE

Points are awarded per race to the top six finishers, based on the Formula One World Championship points scoring system (10, 6, 4, 3, 2 1) but with an extra 10 points awarded to each of the top six finishers. All drivers are eligible to score for a top six finish but can also notch up extra points as follows:

• The fastest driver in race-day warm-up will collect six points, with five for the second and so on down to one point for the sixth quickest. Drivers score one bount for

place they make up over their grid

position. Points are not deducted by losing places. • Five points are lost if your driver posts first retirement, four for second down to one point lost for the fifth

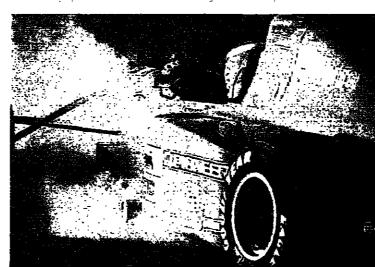
• If your driver makes the quickest pitstop (from the entry of the pitlane to the exit) you gain five points.

 If your driver sets the fastest lap time in the race, you gain five points. If your driver receives a stop/go penalty, you lose five points.

• If your driver starts on pole position, you gain five points. ■ The Independent will name a Driver Of The Day after each race for a particularly impressive performance.

worth five points. Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FIA's published starting grid but fails to take the start, no points are lost. Drivers removed from the results for any reason lose all points gained that weekend. Any driver not competing in a grand prix weekend

scores no points. Chassis score and lose points in the same way as drivers for a top six finish or any early retirement. The score is based on the first chassis home of that particular manufacturer. Likewise, only the first chassis retirement will count if they are both among the first five to retire. • Engine rules are the same as the chassis rules, without the retirement



Dusam team top prize

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Championship season will win our top prize - a drive in a 650bhp F1 car. You will be flown to the AGS team's training school in the south of France for the most exhilarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the racewear and instruction you will need for the day.

European Grand Prix Prize

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points following the European Grand Prix will win a trip for two to the Spanish Grand Prix on June 2. We have two grandstand seats in prime position, from which you will be able to see all the action on the Barcelona circuit.

Argentisien Prize Winner Congratulations to Joe Budynowicz from Hornchurch, Essex with his team Pistons Broke 4. He has won an initial trial at the Nigel Mansell Racing School.

Choose your Dream Team from the shopping list on this page. Remember, you must choose three drivers (the third from the £1 million section), one chassis and one engine. You must not exceed your budget of £40

Give your team a name and register it by ringing 0891 891 805.

You will immediately be asked the entry question: How many races are there in this year's Formula One World Championship?

To enter your Dream Team details you can use one of two methods.

Method I uses a tone phone that lets you key in the code numbers of your driver, chassis and engine choices. The computer will check that your team falls within budget and is eligible.

Method 2 uses a non-tone phone and you give your details verbally. A budget check is not possible using this method.

When you have registered your Dream Team, you will be asked to predict the number of points this year's champion will notch up over the year. In case of a tie at the end of the season, the nearest figure to the champion's points will win the top prize. In the event of a further tie, the team that registered first will win. Once you have registered your team

you will be asked for your name, address and telephone number. Your team selections plus your personal details will he played back to you and, when you confirm that they are correct, you will he given a PIN number.

This is confirmation of your entry and will enable you to access the score check-

There is no limit on the number of teams an individual can enter, but only one team can be registered per call."

You can check your team's position at any time by calling 0891 891 806 and quoting your PIN number. If you want to know the individual driver, chassis and engine scores from the most recent race, call 0891 891 807. This line ill also list the Top Formula One Dream Teams.

Rules

1. All telephone calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times, with a typical call to secure your entry lasting between five and seven minutes.

2. The deadline to be included in a particular race is midday the Friday prior to that race.

3. The judge's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into and there is no cash alternative for prizes. Employees of Newspaper Publishing Plc, Haymarket Publishing Ltd and all associated companies and their families are ineligible. 5. Entrants must be 18 or over and

residents of the UK or the Irish Republic. 6. To be eligible for the main prize, you must hold a current driving licence, be no more than 1.95m tall and weigh no more than 220lbs. 7. All scores will be worked out

according to the official FIA time sheets produced at the meeting. The values stated for drivers, engines and chassis bear no relation to real life. 8. In the event of a tie for the Dream

Team Top Prize or for any of the individual race prizes, the team that registered first will win.

 For lost PIN numbers, call 0891 891
 Helpline: 01275 344183. 10. The Top 50 Teams Line, lists the top 50 teams from the last race. Both the Team Position Check Line and the Results & Top 50 Teams Line will be up-

dated at 2 pm on the Monday following

selection from the Grand Prix Shopping



D

DRIVERS 1 M Schumecher 2 J Alesi IIH Č E 4 G Berger 5 D Coulthard 6 E Irvine

7 J Villeneuve £13m . 8 M Hakkinen 9 H H Frentzen 10 M Brundle 11 R Bárrichelló

£6m 13 M Salo 14 P Lamy 15 P Diniz 16 U Katayama 17 | Verstappen 18 0 Paris .

20 R Rosset 21 A Montenzini £2m 22 G Fisichella 23 V Sospin* 24 T Marques 25 F Lagorce*

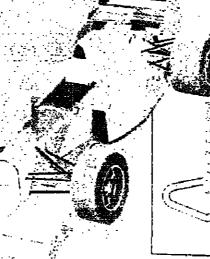
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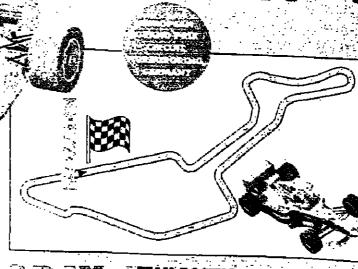
28 M Blundell* 29 J-C Boullion* 30 K Brack* 31 K Bunt* 32 E Colland* 33 N Fontana* 34 D Franchitti*

35 N Larmi* £1m 36 J Magnussen* 37 A Prost* 38 G Tarquini* 39 K Wendlinger* *Not competing in. the European GP, but may compete



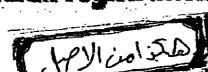
46 Ligier £6m 47 Tyrrell





51 Renault 52 Ferrari £15ac__ 53 Mercedes 56 Ford V10 £6m 57 Yamaha 59 Ford Zetec V8

TEAM POSITION CHECK LINE: 0891 891 806



RESULTS & TOP 50 TEAMS LINE: 0891 891 807

RICHARD EDMONDSON

centre of tremors.

the announcement yesterday

Cecil, the filly's trainer, said yes-

terday. "She has bruised a foot,

but hopefully she will be back

in exercise in a couple of days.

Hopefully the setback won't

affect her participation a week

The news did not change

Bosra Sham's position at the

pinnacle of the Classic betting, which she dominates ahead of

Bint Salasabil (9-2) and Bint

Shadayid (7-1). The Bints are

owned by Sheikh Hamdan Al

Maktoum and the whisper yes-

on Sunday,"

4.30 ERNST & YOUNG NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £8,000 2m 4f 110yds

162112 ROCKET RIM (2) (D) Mas L Russell 8 12 12 A Thomaton 319732 EAST MOUSTON (2) J J O'Neil 7 11 7 L Wyer 04223 WHITE DUMMOND (11) (BF) Mas L Russell 8 11 3 M Fester V

5.00 TOM DYER NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) (DIV I) £3,000 2m 110yds

- 10 declared -BETIRE: 7-4 Arterroch Prince, 15-8 Agestment, 8-1 Callernish Den, 7-1 Game Drive, 15-1 Pher Eche, Hedausy Lad, 20-1 others

5.30 TOM DYER NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(CLASS H) (DIV II) £3,000 2m 110yds

1.15 ACSTRIBET (44) FORGERIS 51 11 12 ... M Dayer 62 AUSTRIBET (44) FORGERIS 51 11 12 ... M Dayer 62 AUSTRIBET (44) FORGERIS 51 12 ... P Corbory 0 CHIEF THE FORGERIS ON (144) I Educards 6 11 2 ... P Corbory 0 CHIEF THE FORGERIS (41) W Currumgrism 6 11 2 ... N South 0 PHAR ECHO (58) L Lungo 5 11 2 ... M Forger HOUSELOPE SERON 6 6 494s 5 10 11 ... Mr A Robono CALLANT MAJOR N Bornes 4 10 10 ... P Waggint CALLANT MAJOR N Bornes 4 10 10 ... P Waggint A South

13P-124 BETTY'S BOY (44) K Batey 7 11 12 R Dun 11P244 HETTSEWENCHANNELS (18) (D) Mrs J Brown 7 11 12.

- 5 deciared -BETING: 8-11 Bethy's Boy, 4-1 Rocket Ross, 5-1 Pflyso 1 East Houston, 18-1 White Diamond

Eligia-hand course with sharp turns, han-in 280yd.

Eligia-hand course with sharp turns, han-in 280yd.

Course is in Score Palace Pk, 4m N of town on AIM, Perth station (service from Dundee) 4m, ADMISSION: Members \$12: 7atternals & Paddock \$7 (OAPA& desabled \$4); Course \$2. CAR PARK-\$5 for picale area, including maximum of 4 adults, rest free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Widte Diamond (4.30).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE BLINKERS: Betty's Boy (4.30) & Franc (5.30) and 41 in by & Bulley from Lambourn, Berks; Rivers End (2.56) & CaBentish Dan (5.00) sent 367m by J Edwards from Sellack, H'fords. 2.20 HILLTOWN PROPERTY CO NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS D) £4,000 4YO 2m 110yds

1 15:11 DECUTIVE DESIGN (59) 40; M Reveloy 11 7 ... P Name
2 41:5 MARCHANT MENG (29) (0) M Hammond 11 7 ... R Gardity
3 ::GPO REST SITE (67) T Dye 10 12 ... A Dobbin
4 :GP3 TRYPH (10) M Hammond 10 7 ... Mr C Boomer (3)
4 declared
BETURG: 10-11 Executive Design, 5-4 Marchant Ming, 8-1 Tryph, 20-1
First Site

CAMPBELL, BOATH SELLING HANDICAP

3.25 SUN LIFE OF CANADA HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £12,000 3m

7:13:1 FIVELEICH BURDS (20) (CD) Max. (Resel 9 11 10. A Thornton Pt-21:11 CERION BOY (SS) (0) Max / Goodelon 10 11 S. Reisnel Buest 8 +662P FRONT LINE (SS) () O'Nel 9 11 1. P Curbert 8 237311 May (S) (0) G Robert S 11 1 (4e) A Dobble 8

RESULTS BEVERLEY 2.10: 1. MAJOR QUALITY (D Harrson) 13. 8 fac: 2. Gormine 33-1; 3. Dark Deed 2-1 12 ran. 5, 11/n. U Fanshawe, Newmanker Tote: £2.60; £1.30, £24.40, £1.20. Dual Forecast: £159.50. Computer Straight Fore-cast: £47.70. Tho: £226.80. Non Runner, Au-tobern.

240:1. MONTECRISTO (F Lynch) 2-5 fav. 2-40:1. MONTECRISTO (F Lynch) 2-5 fav. 2-Phantom Dancer 16-1: 3. Danico 11-2. 8 ran. 15, 2. (R Guest, Newmark). Toto: 51-50: 51.10. £2.60, £1.10. DF: £8.30. CSF-54.07. Tito: 65-00. New Danico. £9.07. Tric: £6.00. Non Runner: Cry Baby. 3.10: 1. COYOTE BLUFF (/ Red) 13-2; 2. Sunitach 6-1: 3. Mybotye 5-1. 7 ran. 5-4 rav State Of Caution (4th). stv-ho, 4. (P Chapole-Hyam, Manton). Tota: £6.80; £2.40, £2.70. DF: £18.10. CSF: £41.95. After a Stew-

artis' mounty, the result stood.
3.40: 1. FREEQUENT (0 Urbmar 7-4 lav.
2. Meft The Clouds 9-4: 3. Missky Bay 71. 12 ran. ½, 3. (L.Curram, Neumaries). Totes
£3.20: £1.20, £1.40, £2.30. DF: £3.50. CSF:
£6.59. Tro: £10.00. Non Runner: Bashthehvants.

Deards. 4. 10: 1. DARLING CLOVER (M Ferrory 12-12. Esidmo Nei 11-4 fav. 3. Maradate 8-1; 4. Anchorena 14-1, 18 ran. 1/2. 2. (D Morley, Newmarka), Tote: £19.10; £3.70, £1.40, £1.70, £3.30, DF: £49.60, CSF. £47.70, Imast. £280.36, Trio: £144.60, NR: McSillycuring Reeks.

McGillycutty Reeks, 4.40: 1. FAATEQ (W Carson) 11-4 fav; 2. Classic Colours 7-1; 3. Pine Needle 10; 10 ran. 2. 1. (f Dunlop, Anudel), Totac F4.10; £1.50, £2.20, £2.10. DF: £30.50. CSF: £23.23. Tricast: £82.37. Tric. £72.30. lackpot: £8,598.50. Placepot: £28.30. Quadpot: £19.30. Place 6: £25.13. Place 5: £18.78.

FONTWELL

2.20: 1. RAPHAEL BOOINE (R DOWS) 7-4 fav; 2. Just Bruce 9-4; 3. Imperial Vintage 7-1. 12 ran. 3, 2½. (Mss V Williams). Tota: 52.70; £1.60, £1.30, £1.70. DF: £4.20. CS: £6.01. Trio: £4.30.

2.50: 1. POLDEN PRIDE (8 Criford) 25-23. Minustra 14.42.

2: 2. Mine's An Ace 10-1: 3. Ramster 14-2, 2 mass 3-1 fav Black Church, nk, 1%, (G Baiding), Totae £9.20; £3.10, £2.50, £4.10. DF: £64.90, CSF: £74.95, Tricase: £948.87. Ino. £235.80.
3.20: 1. RAQIS (D Galagneri 5-1; 2. Miss Diskin 7-1; 3. Prince Nasha 7-1. 14 ran.

7-2 fay Fresh Choice, nd, 10. (P Ruchers). Tota: £3.80; £1.40, £4.10, £1.80. DF: £29.80. CSF: £38.71. Tricest: £232.00. Trice

£104.60.

3.50: 1. ST VILLE (B Powel) 10-1: 2.
Menebuck 15-2; 3. Snuggler's Point 7-2.
7 ran. 3-1 fav Punch's Hotel (4th). nd. hd.
18 Buckler, Toker £13.10; £3.70. £2.90. DF.
£29.30. CSF: £70.45. After a stewards' inquary, the result stood. 4,20: 1. CHILDHAY CHOCOLATE (P Hide) 10-11 lay; 2. Forgrove 5-2; 3. Cell Me Riv-er 6-1. 6 ran. hd. dist. (P Nicholls). Tote: 1.90; £1.50, £1.90. DF: £3.00. CSF:

11.90; £1.50, £1.90. DF: £3.00. CSF; £3.51.
4.50: 1. TIM IS Fou 100-30 g tav. 2. Haunting Music 5-1; 3. Spring Grass 100-30 g tav. 12 ran. 144, 6. (J Jerkins). Tota: £3.90: £1.70, £2.20, £1.10. DF: £12.50. CSF: £18.38. Tio: £6.60.
1; 2. Coleridge 7-2; 3. Pretoria Dancer 11: 4. 12 ran. 9-4 fav Winsting Buck. 16, 9. U Griford). Tota: £6.00; £2.20, £1.60, £1.30. DF: £12.50. CSF: £28.98. Tio: £22.70.

DF: £12.50. CSF: £26.86. Tno: £22.70.

PERTH PERTH
2.00: 1. GROUSE-N-HEATHER (A Dobbn)
2-1 faz: 2. Over The Island 7-2; 3. Walls
Court 4-1. 9 ran. 4, 22. (P. Monteith). Tota:
£2:30; £1.10; £1.40; £1.50. Dust Forecast:
£4.40; £5: £8.19. Tho: £3.30.
2.30: 1. ACT OF FAITH (P. Niver) 13-8 faz:
2. Cragnaturoy 14-1; 3. Naughty Future 92. 15 ran. nl., nl. (N Gaselee). Tota: £2.50;
£1.30; £2.30; £1.80. DF: £13.80. CSF:
£23.25. Tou: £41.40.

£23.25. Tno: £41.40. £23.25. Tro: £41.40.
3.00: 1. POLITICAL TOWER (A Dobbn) 21: 2. Wee River 13-8 fav; 3. Super Sondy
16-1. 7 ran. 19. %. (R Nixon). Tote: £3.00;
£1.40, £1.40, DF: £3.00. CSF: £5.46.
3.30: 1. EIGHT SHARP (R Garnty) 9-2:
2. Principal Player 7-4 fav; 3. Drumdoans
25-1. 11. ran. 5, 9. (M Harmond). Tote:
£570: £2.10, £1.40, £1.50. DF: £8.60. CSF:
£12.58. Tro: £30.90.
4.00: 1. LITTLE WENLOCK (Mis V Jackson) 25-1: 2. Romany Kingl 100-30: 3.

4.00: 1. LITTLE WENLOCK (Mrs V Jackson) 25-1; 2. Romany King 100-30; 3. Southern Miostrel 2-1. 7 ran. 7-4 fav Howayman fiell. 3, 9; Mrs D Gasoni. Tote: £23,10; £5,00; £2,40. DF: £49,10. CSF: £98,58. 4.30: 1. URBAN DANCING (6 Carelli 11-2; 2. Johns The Boy 7-1; 3. Scarba 9-4 fav. 7 ran. 2, nk. (8 Elison). Tote: £6.40; £2.40, £2.60. DF: £13.70. CSF: £39,40. Placepoid: £90-90. Quanticot: £55.30. Placepot: £90.20. Quadpot: £55.30. Place 6: £121.33. Place 5: £103.71.

LUDLOW HYPERION 5.45 Out Ranking 6.15 Blustery Fel-low 6.45 Mim-Lou-And 7.15 Gropredy Lad 7.45 A Windy Citizen 8.15 Aldy-





would be saved for the Poule sic propects with Nash House, d'Essai des Pouliches (French 1,000 Guineas).

This uneasiness virtually im-It may have been the equivalent of Linford Christie splitting a fingernail, but, nevertheless, mobilised the ante-post market, and just about the only filly going down on bits of paper was that Bosra Sham had met with Michael Stoute's Dance Sea slight setback was the epiquence, a 20-1 shot. She is the booked mount of John Reid, The 2-5 favourite for the who had originally been ap-1.000 Guineas on Sunday week pointed to partner Peter Chapwill be an absentee from the ple-Hyam's Sea Spray. That filly is now expected to contest Newmarket gallops for the next 48 hours. Bosra Sham has sufthe Irish equivalent at the Curragh although she may return to fered a minor setback." Henry Rowley Mile consideration if the 1,000 Guineas cuts up further.

Chapple-Hyam also has Clas-

SANDOWN

2.35: AL ABRAQ, who won here on

his debut before running a good race behind Rio Duvida in a big field at Newmarket last September, should

make a useful three-year-old. Leios-ter winner Royal Causaka looks the

3.05: PENGAMON, runner up to

bury last Saturday - over seven fur-

SANDOWN-

principal danger.

200 Red Garter

2.35 Al Abraq

3.05 Pengamon

3.40 Gabr

who was plonked into Derby betting at 10-1 after his seasonal debut win at Newbury. "I was very pleased with him," the trainer said, "but I was surprised

NAP: Relative Chance (Taunton 8.00) NB: El Grando (Taunton 6,30)

RICHARD EDMONDSON

to see his price for the Derby after he had just won a maiden." Chapple-Hyam may clean up this afternoon with Myself (3.40) in the Sandown Mile.

those days, the first two Clas-

Careless Dettori nearly out of Guineas

Frankie Dettori was suspended for two days for careless riding sies, his suspension was deon Sualtach at Beverley yesferred until 6 and 7 May. terday but, because of a change Dettori was judged guilty of in the rules, will not miss the 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas. carcless riding in the featured Ganton Handicap as he had his Under the old rules, Dettori's ban would have taken effect on Sualtach edging to his right to-

whip in his left hand, despite 4 and 5 May, but because there wards the winner, Coyote Bluff, terday was that one of them are Group One races on both inside the final furlong. Sual-HYPERION'S

count of himself.

5.20 Stately Dancer

4.10 Darter 4.45 Galine

Right-hand course. Separate stiff 16 track.

Rescecture to on A307, four miles south of Kingston. Easier railway station (service from London, Waterloot adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club S 16, Junior Club (16 - 26yrs) S 13; Grandstand & Paddock S 12; Park S5. CAR PARE: Prec, or S2 in members.

2.00 ALBERT MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO fillies 5f Penalty Value £3,404

8 SROW OFF (Mrs Susan Davis) W. Janus 8 11. L. L. Detton 1

- 8 declared BETTING: 13-8 Megnella, 5-2 Subotini, 3-1 Show Off, 7-1 Red Garter, 8-1 Royal Embless, 14-1 Lock

Paul Cole struck with juverale debutant, Fickine at Newmarket last week white the stable's Granny's Pet ran well in defeat to finish minosing to behind a smart newcomer in Daylight in Dubar at Newbury, so the agns are that MAGNOLIA is forward enough. The filly is bred to rip along a bit being by 1984 Wokingham, Stewards' Cup and Vernon's Sprint victor Petiong out of a Try My Best mane and she fetched 32,000gns as a yearing, Red Ganter and Royal Eribbiem both have expenence on their side, finishing runner-up on their debuts behind Muchea at Cattenek – beaten 10 lengths – and to Masterstroke at Brighton, respectively. Barry Hills has booked Pet Eddery for Sabothuk, who is by good sprinter Prince Sabo out a full-sister to Park Hill herotine Quay Line and Shore Line (fourth in the Qaks and dam of Soviet Line). Selection: MAGNOLIA

2.35 TUDOR CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £8,000 C4

BETTING: 5-2 Red Robbo, 3-1 Regal Archive, 100-30 Al Abrac, 11-2 Censor, 7-1 Gold Disc., Royal

1995: Spectrum 3 9 4 J Red 11-10 (P Crappe-Hyann 3 on 1995) and by Spectrum - who went on to Insh 2,000 (Suneas and Champion States glory - lest year, Henry Cacil runs Red Robbo (Pat Endery) and Ceason (While Ryan). Red Robbo, who scraped home from Sesuru on his York debut in August, finished lest of five to Henry The Fifth on softein ground at Newholly in October on his only other outling bus something was found to be arises and that display is best forgotten. Censor, a Derby entrant, is a full-brother to four wirmers including top-class miser Shavian and half-brother to Ascot Gold Cup victor Peach. Unplaced on his introduction, the Kirs colf won at Nottingham in October and there may not be much between the Cecil pair. However, REGAL ARCHIVE might master them both. Trained by Peter Chapite-Hyam, who has scarted the season in fine style, the Fairy (ling colt went in first time up at Kempton on Easter Monday disspite hairing been slightly heid up in his work. He ran green and had to be pushed along but was striding out well at the finish and will be more at home over this extra furiong and on this much artier track. Royall Cassestion has more on his plate than when defeating North Song inarrowly at Leicester on the return but he is another open to improvement. All Abring easily landed a median auction malden over seven here in August on his debut and ran sixth of 30 behind Rio Duvida in the Tattersalis Hougitton Sales Conditions Stakes at Newmarker. Selection: REGAL ARCHIVE

3.05 ATHLONE RATED STAKES (CLASS C HANDICAP) C4

3.40 SANDOWN MILE (CLASS A) (Group 2) £50,000 C4

33360 SOVIET LINE (10) (D) Okskourn Al Malzoum) M Stoue 5 9 6. Pat Eddery 8
1022 98500 OF CASHEL (216) (D) (Cheeday Pat Stud) 1 Facebase 4 9 0. D Harrison 10
12223 DESCRIPTION (EINO (18) (D) Herbert Allen) 1 Socien 4 9 0 . D Harrison 7
252 12 PRIST ISLAND (S) (D) (Abdies Racing G Wang 4 9 0 . M 186 1

_W Woods 8

3.05 | 512500 acided 1m Pernatty Value £8,074 |
1.63150 | MOMENTS OF FORTUNE (309) (D) (Abdulleh Al) B Hanbury 4 9 7 |
2.35020 | DESERT GREEN (FR) (1.09) (D) (Mac P Jubert R Harman 7 9 7 |
3.10000 | ARL (S) (CD) (Hamdon Al Methoum) A Ameristang 4 9 2 |
3.11000 | ARL (S) (CD) (Hamdon Al Methoum) A Ameristang 4 9 2 |
4.114153 | DONNA WOLA (2039) (CD) (Haman D Scord C Wall 4 9 0 |
4.114153 | DONNA WOLA (2039) (CD) (Haman D Scord C Wall 4 9 0 |
5.36000 | PERAL (WALL) (ER) (QAC) (Mar P W Hams) P Hams 4 9 0 |
6.36000 | PERAL (WALL) (ER) (QB) (D) (F Hamse) Mass Gay Natheney 4 8 11 |
8.631231 | AlMOND ROCK (223) (D) (CD) Raceng Lap) F Franks Mass Gay Natheney 4 8 10 |
9.301100 | RONTS SECRET (281) (D) (Fon Dawey) J Pryna 4 8 10 |
9.301100 | PERAL (WALL) (D) (Mass Arabets Sansiman H Collegating 4 8 9 |
9.301100 | PERAL (WALL) (D) (Mass Arabets Sansiman H Collegating 4 8 9 |
11.251110 | RAZZ OF SONG (S31) (D) (D Goodock R Hamon 4 8 8 |
12.31500 | SONG (S31) (CTS) (EN) Raceng (2.0) (C Eperton 4 8 7 |
13.02065 | SONG (S31) (CTS) (EN) Raceng (2.0) (C Eperton 4 8 7 |
14.4125 | ON OFFICIAL (WALL) (CTS) (D) (Mains Sand R Aleitung 4 8 7 |
15.040063 | SEAN (225) (D) (Mains Sand R Aleitung 4 8 7 |
16.03300 | SEAN (2000) (D) (Mains Sand R Aleitung 4 8 7 |
17.111023 | BASY (CAROCE (USA) (189) (D) (Mainten) P Miscrell 4 8 7 |
19.410000 | SAFAN (181) (D) (Mas L Bonk) D Motton P Miscrell 4 8 7 |
19.410000 | SAFAN (181) (D) (Mas L Bonk) D Motton P Miscrell 4 8 7 |
19.410000 | SAFAN (181) (D) (Mas L Bonk) D Motton P Miscrell 4 8 7 |
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19.410000 | SAFAN (181) (D) (Mas L Bonk) D Motton P Miscrell 4 8 7 |
19.410000 | SAFAN (181) (D) (Mas L Bonk) D Motton P Miscrell 4 8 7 |
19.410000 | SAFAN (181) (D) (Mas L Bonk) D Motton P Miscrell 4 8 7 |
19.410000 | SAFAN (181) (D) (M

01- CENSOR (183) (D) (Lord Howard de Walden) H Cecil 9 0...

GOLD THISC (USA) (199) (X Abdullet) B Hills 9 0.

BETTINE: 5-2 HISO HUMAN, or 1 THE CHARGE HISON 5 FAN Canasia, 10-1 Gold Spain 1995: Specinim 3 9 4 J Reid 11-10 (P Chapple-Highn) 5 Fan FORM GUIDE

ALBERTIAN (Proved) / White 8 11.

LOCH DIBIDALE (Gles W Proteins) - Banis 8 11.

BARROULA Constoper Weight P Cole 8 11.

PRESIGNAL (Mis W A Cram) D Arbustner 8 11.

RED GARTIER (SI) (Albertett MecCaleryn K McAuffle 8 11.

ROYAL EMBLEM (JA) (Lamboum Valley Recing A Foster 8 11.

ELECTRINAL TAKES F Forests B Hills 8 11.

1995: Flying Squaw 2 8 11 R Hughes 100-30 (M Channon) 12 cm

GOING: Good (Good to Soft final three farlongs on round course). GOING: Gond (1000 to soit that three through on root STALLS: Straight course - far side, remainder - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers best for fif.

Phantom Creek in the 1,000. 3.40: GABR, three-quarters of a length behind the litter First Island when the pair were third and fourth to Luso in the Group Three Earl of Seiton Stakes at the Newmarket Craven meeting, should come on for that race and can turn the tables over a trip which should suit him better. Soviet Line and Nwaamis cut little ice on their reappearances, while Welton Arsenal - who ran a good longs at Warwick last time, stays a mile well and should give a good ac-Bishop Of Cashel, Myself, Nijo and mile well and should give a good ac-

for the race.

while Red Robbo (2.35) is sent the second out by the Cecil school of ex-

cellence for the Tudor Condi-

tions Stakes earlier in the day.

The cleaning up will cer-tainly still be taking place at Punchestown today following a three-day Festival which at-

tracted record crowds. The fi-

nal day of the meeting is La Touche day, when Punch-

estown's banks course and its 33

fences of varying make-up and

complexity come into play. It is

Jeux Sans Frontieres for horses,

but is not the lottery it might ap-

pear. Risk Of Thunder has

shown something of a liking for

this obstacle race and won for

tach, who failed by a short -head

to beat Coyote Bluff, caused

slight interference to that Peter

Chapple-Hyam-trained horse

wintered horses in the New-

market Classics; Mark Of

Esteem in the 2,000 Guineas and

Dettori is to ride two Dubai-

towards the finish.

4.10: DARTER, who developed into a smart juvenile over timber last winter and might have gone close in the Triumph Hurdle but for his early departure, returns to the Flat and car exploit a lenient handicap mark. He stays well. Speed To Lead, who ran well at the Craven meeting, should be fitter now and looks the danger. Folkestone winner Toy Princes: has more to do here while Realuzar are all expected to be better ganesque was a big disappointment at Nottingham.

the second consecutive year

who appreciates Punchestown and he repeated his trick of

beating Cheltenham's Stayers'

Hurdle winner in the Tip-

perkevin Hurdle under Mark

Dwyer. Last year the victim was Dorans Pride and yesterday it

was the Martin Pipe-trained

Cyborgo who disappointed.

David Bridgwater was al-

ready hard at work on odds-on-

Cyborgo trying to hold off What

A Question as Derrymoyle

cruised up at the second last.

The Michael Cunningham-trained winner beat What A

Question by two and a half

lengths with Minella Gold com-

ing from off the pace to run Cy-borgo out of third place. The winner and Cyborgo are to be sent novice chasing next season.

the mark for the week when

working hard to keep Ventana

Canyon a short-head in front of Double Symphony in the novice

chase, while Tony McCoy rode

a treble on Mayasta, Shaunies

Lady and Have To Think.

Richard Durwoody got off

Derrymoyle is another horse

Soviet Line had a great season in 1994, winning five times, including Group Three events at Doncaster, Goodwood and Sha-Tin whele he landed last year's Lockinge Stakes at Newbury, Michael Stoute's sa-year'dolf lacked the pace to trouble the leaders when seventh of 13 to Passion For Life in the sw-furing Abemant Stakes at Newmarket on his return but will be sharper for the run, is back at his right trip and Pat Eddery takes the mount. The combination could go close but with Peter Chapple-Hyam's usam in such good form and MYSELF proving herself an early type last farm, the full gless my vote. Myself took the Group Three hell Gwyn at Newmarket on her opening outing lost season and, although she falled to add to their success, no well when fourth behind Branston Abby at Doncaster and third to linear at Goodwood of the end of September, beaten about a length. With a 4b pull, she can turn around the form with finzar. Give in the ground is a must for Bishop Of Cashel who bear high three parts of a length at Doncaster (Group Three) in September and James Fanshawe's runner can confirm that form. Bishop Of Cashel finished a length behind Sovert Line when they were third and fourth to Bahri in the Queen Eizabeth II Stakes at Ascot in September and is 6th brone of fisher weight-for-age-adjustment. There should again be et une wiren mey were trint and fourth to team in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot in Sepenber and is 61b better off after weight-for-age adjustment There should again to little between First listend and Gebr, separated by threequarters of a length when third and fourth to Luso in the Earl of Setton Stakes at Newmarket nine days ago. First Island on at Doncaster on the opening day with hotors Invasable a four-length that. That was Nivaamis's first race since May – he had a pelvis miguty last summer – and he should be the closer this time.

EU CTORRE QUIE QUIE
4.10 GUILDFORD HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added C4
1 4111/ ERZADMA (977) (D.S.Haft) Mrs M. Reveley 6 10 0
2 4355-00 CYPRESS AVENUE (7) (CT Spencer-Philips) R Hannon 4 9 5
3 3/23-2 SPEED TO LEAD (9) (8F) (Buckern Cak Holdings) H Cecil 4 9 2
4 42-5061 TOY PRINCESS (USA) (10) (C E Britan) C Britan 4 8 13 (4ed
5 524524 PARADISE NAVY (158) (Elite Raong Cuti) C Egyston 7 8 12
6 (34-110 LEAR DANCER (USA) (41) (D) (BF) (Mrs R A Johnson) P Machell 5 B 11
7 3653- DARTER (185) (A D Spence) R Alegrust 4 8 7
8 O/52333- BARFORD SOVEREIGH (285) (Bartord Bloodstock) J Fershawe 4 8 7
9 40/62/ PREROBATIVE (980) PARTHER Thole! R Simpson 6.8.5
10 210/05 CALL MY GUEST (13) (Detek D Cast) R Percock 6 8 4
11. 33000-2 HATDAAFER (10) (Mrs P.J. Sheen) Miss B Sanders 5 7 10
12 541621 ROCKY FOREIN (285) (D) (The Forum Ltd) 6 L Mapre 4 7 10 J Outra 5
13 05500-0 REAGANESQUE (USA) (IA) (Mrs. John Speimer) P Murphy 4 7 10
14 3141-40 GENTLEMAN SID (35) (CD) (Mass J Collision) P Murphy 6 7 10
- 14 declared -

Minimum religio: 7s; 10h. Truo handicop welgns: Rody Forum & Reaganestus 7st 9h, Ganteman St To con.
SETTING: 3-1 Derice, 100-30 Speed To Lead, 7-1 Hettanfieh, 8-1 Toy Priscoss, 10-1 Ezzeljan, Par
adiso Navy, 12-1 Lear Dancer, Rocky Forum, Barford Sovereign, 14-1 Cypres Avense, 16-1 Pre regutive, 20-1 others 1995: Smugging 4 8 11 i. Detton 4-1 (R Akehurst) 17 can

DARTER failed to score from four attempts lest season over shorter trips when in Lucia Cuman's DARTER failed to score from four attempts last season over shorter trips when in Luca Cuman's stable but has improved a deal since, chalking up a hat-mick over timber before falling at the first in the Thumph Hundle. The four-year-old, now in Reg Alexhust's yard, is on an attractive mark and looks worth an interest. Speed to Lucad is another marken but she has title mileage on the clock at the age of four and will be the better for her opening two-length second behind Progression at Newmarket nine days ago. Site is Darter's most dangerous-looking lead, Toy Princess, fit from the all-weather, defeed 10st when defeating Hatthasten's Follessions 10 days ago – the pair five lengths clear, However, Hattageth, who has a 3th pull and was having her first race for five months at the Kent track, can reverse the form. pull and was having her first race for five morens at the nemt door, was noted to lear Dancer, who gained consecutive wins at Wokerhampton in January, was supported from 5-1 to 9-4 favounte on the same course last month but was besten out of sight in Safetting DARTER

4.45 SURREY RACING HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added 5f Penalty Value £5,784 213160 OUR SHADEE (USA) (4) (KT Nov) X bory 6 7 10. - 18 declared -

- 18 decision - - 18 decision - - 18 decision - 18 decisio

1995: Brave Edge 4 9 10 Pat Eddery 100-30 (R Hannon) 12 ran FROM GUIDE.

High numbers will have the advantage here and MISTER JOLSON could take the beating from stall 18. My selection ran a fine race from a poor draw to finish a four-and-a-holf-length fourth of 25 behind dead-heaters Sealgneumid and Larching at Kempton on his return, finishing strongly to lead those on the stands' side. Mister Jolson is 85 better in with that where, who was drawn 24 of the 25 that day and sen't well positioned in stall nine this time. Mister Jolson should again take care of Sir Joey, Titalian Osstasation and Sally Stade, who finished behind him at the Surbury mach. The agrithy race Gealine, who strok form at Nowmarket eight days ago, is likely to progress again and has a good draw at 16. Master Of Presiden should be prominent on his reappearance from stall 15, while Gone Sawage, another racing for the first time this term, seeks course and distance win number fee from a fair position at 13.

Selection: MISTER JOLSON

5.20 APRIL MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (CLASS D) £5,500 added 3YO 1m 2f Penalty Value £4,033 3YO 1m 2f Penalty Value £4,033

1 252 ALESANDRA (189) (I) Dee/ B His 8 11.
2 3- ANNESY (ISA) (189) (I) Dee/ B His 8 11.
3 03- ANNESY (ISA) (189) (I Abrahan) H Croi B 11.
4 43- FLAME WAILEY (ISA) (289) (Abrahan) H Lockely Ram Study M Stoute 8 11.
5 2- LOTHLORIEN (ISA) (192) (R E Sangsoly P Chapple-Hyem 8 11.
7 5- RENOTCHIA (ISA) (189) (Mass A Resent) I During 8 11.
8 5- REHIERATE (224) (Mass B Sewity G Baiding 8 11.
9 03-5 STUTELY DANCER (189) A E Openhermon G Wange 8 11.
10 AMBER RING (Pine Crest Racing M Charlorn 8 7.
11 FOREST HEIGHTS (Boorge Warr) May Lock 8 7.
12 NAMER (ISA) (Sang A-Massed) W Mus 8 7.
13 QUOTA (K Abrids) H Cred 8 7.
14 UNALLOYED (USA) (Shelfin Mohammed) D Loder 8 7.
15 PRETTING 11-4 Lothlorium, 3-1 Quota, 7-2 Alessandra, 9-2 Stately Dencer, 12 Valley, Unalloyed, 12-1 Neothelic, 20-1 others 1996: Picroy 3 8 11 D Hamson 11-2 (I Fenshave) 15 ran FOREM GUIDDE __W Carson 12 .S Departs (3) 8 Hills 14

Venture, 8 Treatment, 20-1 Moments for routine, 53-1 and happy classics, 33-3 and 1995: Ité Marium 5 9 3 M Remner 10-1 (C Brittan) 10 on 1995: Ité Marium 5 9 3 M Remner 10-1 (C Brittan) 10 on 1995: Ité Marium 5 9 3 M Remner 10-1 (C Brittan) 10 on 1995: Ité Marium 5 9 3 M Remner 10-1 (C Brittan) 10 on 1995: Ité Marium 5 9 3 M Remner 10-1 (C Brittan) 10 on 1995: Ité Marium 5 Court of the mark at Salisbury and third in September on his final appearance, defeating Courtny Lover on an Almond Rock ran second behand Florin De Cool at beck at Salisbury and third to Scaraben Almond Rock ran second behand Florin De Cool at beck at Salisbury and third to Scaraben Almond Rock ran second behand Florin De Cool at beck at Salisbury and third to Scaraben Almond Rock ran second behand Florin De Cool at beck at Salisbury and third to Scaraben Almond Rock ran second behand Florin De Cool at beck at Salisbury and third to Scaraben Almond Rock ran second and level stress of 1996 inches of the Rock ran second level as the second salisbury and third to Scaraben at Chepstow in May, Looks the main threat despite his lack by a next himm horbeteenesse at Chepstow in May, Looks the main threat despite his lack by a next himm horbeteenesse at Chepstow in May, Looks the main threat despite his lack by a next himm hor size of a recent outling. Course and distance and he will straighter for Aldra himse write in 1995 noticed one over outlies scored three times in 1995, once over as it was not a scarabe for a recent outling. On the noticed from 25-1 to 7-1. He can again Signs, Star Manager, who produced after being backed from 25-1 to 7-1. He can again Signs, Star Manager, who produced after being backed from 25-1 to 7-1. He can again Signs, Star Manager, who produced after being backed from 25-1 to 7-1. He can again Signs, Star Manager, who produced after being backed from 25-1 to 7-1. He can again Signs, Star Manager, who produced after being backed from 25-1 to 7-1. He can again Signs, Star Manager, who produced after being backed from 25-1 Subsequent Cales and St. Leger herene User Friendly made a winning debut in this four years ago and the race could again throw up something smart. Henry Cecil's Quota is a full-sister to Racing Post Trophy and Chester Vase winner Armiger and it will come as no surprise if she goes in first time up but preference is for LOTHLORIENL. From the In-form Peter Crapple-Hyen stable, my selection has had only the one race to date, going down a head to Sid For Gold in a field of 19 at Chepstow in October. She's by Woodman out of a mare closely related to Saffer's Wells. Barry Hills's Alessandra, rumer-up twice from three starts last term – behind Bint Shadayid on her debut at Asoot in July, beener three and a half lengths, and to Potar Eclipse at Haydock in October but unplaced to Mons in Listed company at Newbury in between, may do best of the others. Annoy, a stablemate of Quotars three burst as the company of the company of the head of the safe processes on her single juvenilee start while Dead of severance of the start while Dead of severance of the fundaments of united to Overhaled at Doncaster on her single juvenilee start while Dead of the safe three starts while Dead of the safe three starts. tioyed, a Silver Hawk filly, is half-sister to a couple of winners including the smar Sayer Ending and was a 140,000-dollar purchase.

CARLISLE

HYPERION 2.10 Jab Jab 2.45 SAGEBRUSH ROLLER (nap) 3.15 Night Wink 3.50 Go With The Wind 4.20 Migwar 4.55 Heathyards Magic (nb) 5.25 Foist GOING: Good to Soft.

GOING: Good to Soft.

STALLS: Inside except 1m4f (outside).

DRAW ADVANTACE: High from 7f to 1m4f.

Right-hand undulating course.

Course is on the southern outsiders of town, 4m W of junction 42 of M6. Carlisle station 2m. ADMISSION; Club \$12 (OAPs & under-21s \$9); Tamersalls 56 (OAPs & under-2(s \$3). CAR PARK: \$3 on rails; remainder free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Thorstonn Espate (3.50); Heath-yards Magic (4.55); Strathtore Dream (visored) (5.25). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Multadi (3.50) has been sere 352

miles by J Donlop from Arundel, W Sussex. 2.10 BUZZARD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,550 added 2YO 5f BLAZING CASTLE W G M Turner 9 0...
DUT TO RID (CAN) 83 May J Ransdon 9 0...
GRACE TAMES E Weymes 9 0...
HIGH SPIRES T Easierby 9 0... JUB JAB (B) () Nicholis 9 () MASIC BLUE (34) R Holmsheed 9 O.F Lynch (5) 5 (3 Parido (5) 2 MELL END BOY M W Essenby 9 C... DOTE M Channon 9 0.

2.45 KESTREL CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,950 added 7f

— 9 dickred — 8ETTRG: 2-1 Sagabrash Refler, 9-4 Prond Image, 7-1 De-Veers Currie, Rembors, 8-1 Kasamei King, 10-1 To Prova A Polat, 16-1 others 3.15 GOLDEN EAGLE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m

216006- TERTEM (197) (DLM Ware 4.96.

- 11 declared BETIME: 9-4 N's Academic, 4-1 Night Wink, 5-1 Molasti, 8-1 Percy Braithwalte, Sue's Return, 12-1 Best Of All, 14-1 others

17 0003-05 ROWCLIFFE (BRANEE (71) D Chapman 4 7 10 _N Keet

- 17 declared
- 18 decl

3.50 MERLIN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3YO 1m 4f

- 9 declared -BETUNG: 5-2 Northern Publier, 11-4 Frenc, 4-1 The Sturrow Legend, 11 2 Hydro, 16-1 Rath's Surprise, 12-1 Hilde's Pet, 14-1 othersM Birch 3 006-0 MARSAYAS (15) M Camacho 8 1__

– 15 deciared – Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weights: General Glow 7st 9th, Qu

et Moments & Ordained 7st 6fb. BETTPNO: 7-4 Mehtzail, 9-2 Jackson Paris, 8-1 Six Clerks, Siege Perflous. 10-1 Go-Go-Power-Ranger, 12-1 Go With The Wind, 14-1 others 4.20 SPARROW HAWK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3YO 1m 4f 2 ANNA SOLEL (22) M Channon 9 0 ، مثما ل... ا مثما ل... RESPECTING Danie Smith 9 0. "K Fallon S CLASSIC COLLETTA S Villiams 8.9 O GELDORAN SOUND (179) I Easterby 8 9. O TROBA (18) J Serry 8 9.

- 8 deciared -BETTINE: 4-5 Migner, 5-1 Lallens, 6-1 Ames Soled, 10-1 Nordic Hero, 12-1 Cildoran Solend, 14-1 Troitz, 15-1 others

4.55 KESTREL CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F)
(DIV II) 52,950 added 7f 35048-0 THWAAB (25) F Watson 4 8 9....... 54-00 KASHANA (9) W Storey 4 8 6.......

- 8 declared -BEITING: 9-4 Heathyards Magic, 3-1 Palacegata Touch, 9-2 Tee Tee Tee, 6-1 Kashana, 8-1 At The Savoy, Ohnonotagala, 19-1 others

5.25 PEREGRENE FALCON HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,450 added 6f

17 COUNTY PROMINENT CHARMACY 1

-17 declayed
Minimum weight: 7st 100. True handicap weights: Regazo 9st 9b, Langtonion & Stratuger Decem 7st 5b, Bauediffs Grangs 7st.

BETTING: 5-2 Beards, 9-2 Floid, 7-1, Pedrano, 8-1, Superpride, 10-1 Resaw Boy, 12-1 Sondertse, 14-1 Densber, 16-1 others

TAUNTON

HYPERION 5.30 Take A Flyer 6.00 Jurz 6.30 Handson 7.00 Court Melody 7.30 Solatium 8.00 Relative Chance

GO(NG: Good (Good to Soft in places).

Eight-hand course. Bur-in of 150yds.

Course is S of town on B3170. Taunton station 2m. ADMISsers \$11; Paddock \$8.50; Centre of Course \$4, CAR PARE: Centre of course 53; remainder free.

BLINKERSD FIRST TIME: Lawbester (5.30); Majboor Tafoor
(viscord) (5.30); Logic (viscord) (7.30).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Jurz (6.00) won at Ban-

gor on Seturday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Jayannich (6.00) & Tapestry Rose
(7.50) sent 162 miles by J Poulson from Telecombe ,E Sussex.

5,30 MOTORWAY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 added 2m 3f 110yds 1 OFOOS4 ORATIC (CS) M Ppe 5 12 0. D Bridgenier V
1 OFOOS4 ORATIC (CS) M Ppe 5 12 0. D Bridgenier V
2 OFOOS4 ORATIC (CS) M Ppe 5 12 0. D Bridgenier V
3 OFFOO1 TANKE A RIVER (CS) R Hodges 6 11 5 ... T Descende (S) 8
4 152309 GIEFY (CS) B Levelyn 4 10 13 ... Mr J L. Lienethyn
5 550-09 BREDES PRIDE (CS) 6 Harn 5 10 13 ... S Brancisch
6 629755 MISTER BLAVE (LS) Ms A Hamilton-Family 6 10 11 ... B Hogen (S)
7 OCC246 LIERIAN LLY (LS) R Hodges 6 10 10 ... B Hamilt (S)
8 2-00FPP NOPINCE CROWN (S4) (S) M Ppe 5 10 10 ... D Burnes (T) B
9 01 0-P00 CLASSIC MAKE (CS) H Memors 6 10 9 ... A Dowling (T)
10 PFFO-03 COCUR BATTANT (LS) R Baser 6 10 8 ... S Powell
11 3F00 TILDOR PLICHT (CS) A Nescombs 5 10 3 ... A P McDay
12 P60U60 VISION OF LIGHT (CS) H Ober 6 10 3 ... Jaccal Office
13 4-00P LAWESTER (TT) Ms I Perdeson 4 10 3 ... D Scalar (S) B
14 REP-OPP SIMPLY A SEQUEL (ST) C Incident 4 10 3 ... D Scalar (S) B
15 04P-PS* RIVERTS JOY (LS) M SC Carde 6 10 0 ... Lawyston
16 Galdered ...
16 Galdered ...

- 15 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. True weights: Sizonnie Set 13to, Father's Joy Set 11to. BETONE: 4-1 Court Battest, 9-2 Take A Piyer, 5-1 Master, 7-1 Minter Maleo. 10-1 (Agry, Junction Twentyture, Tudor Flight, 12-1 others

6.00 HUSBANDS CHALLENGE CUP NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 3f CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200

311-U11 JURZ (6) (C) R Hodges 8 12 4,
30-U21 DRIMCULLER (16) R Barby 7 11 11

15-0313 WINGST (15) (6) R Rher 6 11 11

572243 ARMARD 29 R First 7 11 4,

PR-P CHIKAMEL (44) Ms. J Mile 8 11 4,
(0.0355 HASHAR (37) P Wegmann 8 11 4,
RGFPP JAYSMITH (6) J PAURO 10 11 14

420-PD5 JANE, FREZZ (15) A Barrow 8 11 4,
(0.0435 MILE AL MIL 00043 MUTUAL MEMORIES (375) M Heromon 8 11 4 J P-84806 TANGEYS DEJEKT (15) D Elsentri 8 11 4 J 442PO DANTES DEJEKT (128) P JORES 8 10 13 06-PPPP STRATFON FLYER (35) H Hove 6 10 13

- 12 decianod -BETTING: 4-5 Juzz, 4-1 Drumonilou, 6-1 Aberard, 7-1 Wisspit, 8-1 Mata-al Manurica, 18-1 Dante's Delight, 20-1 others

6.30 MELODY MAN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 1f 416131 TONYS GET (18) (D) M Pipe 4 11 10 56234-P Wal, MAIES (200) C Deou 10 11 4 Law P Healey (5) B 5325-00 THE EMEDITOR (156) 00 J Joseph 6 11 3 _____ D Styrme 60P-655 E. GSMN00 159 00 K Currington-Brown 6 11 3 ____ W Messton 1300-00 MontelET (16) (0) I Forg 10 11 3 ____ Y Toolke 32150 DOMINESSTURONNER (37) (D) C Pophem 6 11 1. G Toeney (3) 510033 CHRS'S GLEN (16) (D) J M Bradley 7 11 0..... B Femior (3) V

– 16 declared – BETTING: 4-1 Tonys Gift, 9-2 Severn Bale, 5-1 Domitress Caris's Gien, Melboor Yafogz, 12-1 Handson, 14-1 others 7.00 SOMERSET NUFFIELD HOSPITAL HAND-ICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 3m

| CAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 3m1
| 202134 CHANNELS GRE (333) Mes Y Wilson 12 11 11 ... R Davis
| 202134 CHANNELS GRE (333) Mes Y Wilson 12 11 11 ... R Davis
| 202134 CHANNELS GRE (338) Mes Y Wilson 12 11 12 ... R Davis
| 202134 CHANNELS (321) GRE P Hotos 11 11 ... JA NECORDS |
| 202134 MATUAL BRIST (123) GR (85) P Hotos 12 11 9. G Teams (3)
| 314770 GREEN ISLAND (15) A Dun 10 11 9 ... Like Nicked White (7) B
| 41775 GREEN ISLAND (15) A Dun 10 11 9 ... Like Nicked White (7) B
| 41775 GREEN ISLAND (15) A Dun 10 11 9 ... Like Nicked White (7) B
| 41775 GREEN ISLAND (15) A Dun 10 11 9 ... Like Nicked White (7) B
| 41775 GREEN ISLAND (15) A Dun 10 11 9 ... Like Nicked White (7) B
| 41775 GREEN ISLAND (15) A DUN 10 11 9 ... Like Nicked White (7) B
| 5117-13 MONISSANDER (20) (0) P Rochers 10 10 7 ... D Gallaghar
| 311978 P JW JWYS VOYAGE (20) (CD) Mes 1 Scheres 13 11 0 ... Like The Produck (5)

7.30 ASPEN CATERING MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 1f

00°22 GRANDON (122) Mr. | Taylor 7 11 5 | A McCartiny
10°85 LITTLE TOM P Rodod 5 11 6 | B Bestroop

430P4 MAMLER (25) N Testion-Deuse 6 11 6 | T Jacobs

00°EN FESTIAL R Bailer 6 11 6 | B Powell

8AVEN'S ROOST H Marnes: 5 11 6 Mr A Charles-Jones

1-2228 STORM RIM (50) (87) P Noticle 6 11 6 A P McCay

4 VALUART (140) T FORSE 5 11 6 Mr P Header (5

6 1-2228 STORM RUN (SU) (RF) P Nechols 6 11 6 A P McCoy
7 4 Vallant (149) 1 Frores 5 11 6 P P Headay (5)
8 42360 COME DANCE WITH ME (20) (RF) R Fost 6 11 1 Prost
10 0 TAPESTRY ROSE (20) 1 P nation 5 11 1 P Crowley (7)
11 3 BLASTED (42) 6 Thomas 4 11 0 Clare Thomas (7)
12 P LOGE (37) 0 Gandolo 4 11 0 D Forti (3) V
13 62230 SOLATIUM (45) M Ppc 4 11 0 D Forti (3) V
14 RUPERTS PRINCIPS H Haydes 4 10 9 Glyton
14 Occlared — G Updon
15 4 Solatium, 5-2 Storm Run, 5-1 Miniter, 6-1 Vallant, 10-1 Binst
24 12-1 Come Omnor With Ma, 16-1 others

8.00 CONFERENCE CENTRE AMATEURS NOVICE HCAP HOLE (CLASS F) £2,650 2m 3f 110yd

Bradford Three revel in new-found freedom



Loughlin returned Knowsiev Road a couple of weeks ago, he walked instinctively into the

home changing-room. mistake. Loughlin, a Saint for 12 years and more, had never ex- much for some St Helens suppected to go back to the ground as a member of the opposition.

Nor had Bernard Dwyer, another one-club man who had been there almost as long. Nor had Sonny Nickle - a more reassumed that he would be staying at St Helens for the foresecable future.

But one afternoon in November, all three were told that they were Saints no more. Bradford wanted them in part- in mind." Dwyer said. "But

exchange for Paul Newlove in the world's biggest transfer deal.
"We could have refused, but it was made pretty clear to us that there was not much future for us at the club if we did," says

Loughlin. Excited as they were with It was an understandable such an acquisition, the price in departed favourites was too porters; it would not have been a surprise to see banners at the next match reading: "Free the ·Bradford Three".

As for the players themselves, they sat grim-faced at cent signing, but one who also their welcoming press conference at Odsal, like kids who had been enjoying themselves play-ing out and had been dragged off to visit a particularly tiresome maiden aunt instead

"It wasn't what any of us had







we're professionals. Things hap-pen and you have to make the best of them."

All three have done rather better than that, Loughlin recapturing some of the form that made him Great Britain's regular centre in the late 80s and early 90s and Dwyer and Nickle adding quality to the Brad-

"The difference is that we feel wanted here." says Dwyer, another to benefit from the change of scene once he got used to the extent of that change.

"It was haywire at first." he says. "Every time you came to training there were another couple of new players there. The remarkable thing is how well it has all come together now."

Nickle, a Yorkshireman but one who still lives in St Helens and travels over with the rest of the contingent from the town, is well placed to assess attitudes there. "I don't think people there were right pleased about the way we left - the way it was done," he says. "I think a lot of them are just pleased that Brad-ford are at Wembley, because Smith. that means that the three lads

who left are there." There is, says Dwyer, another reason why Saints' supporters are happy for them to be at Wembley. "The people in St Helens think they've got the cup already. All the pressure is on them, while we're going there under no pressure what-

Although all three players claim that they will treat Saints like any other opposing side, there is bound to be some extra frisson for them on Saturday; some sense of having

make their old club regret discarding them. "I wish I could do more deals like the one that brought them here," says their coach at Bradford, Brian

Nickle, provided he keeps his head, can do considerable damage down the right-hand side of the pitch, balancing the destructive work of Jeremy Donougher on the left. "Between us, we can be a handful," he

Dwyer, one of just a handful of players in the match with previous Wembley experience, has been given a crucial role at hooker, with Smith reasoning that his know-how will be more valuable than Jason Donohue's sprightly pace.

But the real Wembley specialist is Loughlin, one of the

All three have the ability to few players in the history of the game with three losers' medals. from defeats there with St Helens in 1987, 1989 and 1991.

"I've got enough losers' medals," he says. I'm having them melted down to make a couple of rings. But it would be pretty ironic if, after leaving Saints, I finally got a winners'

Provided he goes into the right dressing-room at Wembley, a revitalised Loughlin, feeding off a wide-running second row like Donougher, could do Saints as much harm as he did Leeds in the semi-fi-

An unlucky player with injuries as well as cup finals, there might even be a few people in St Helens who would not begrudge him a change of fortune this time.

Broncos' coach* wields the axe

The London Broncos coach Tony Currie, has sacked three of the club's Australian players for missing a training session last week, writes Dave Hadfield.

The centres Kieran Meyer and Danny Smith, as well as the forward, Shaun Keating, were given their cards yesterday after being dropped against Workington last Sunday.

"I have given them two weeks notice to allow them to sort their lives out," Currie said, "They are free to go to any club without a transfer fee and there are some clubs already interested."

Currie, a former Australian international, took his hard line with the players after previously dropping two others for arriving late at a training session. "They have to realise they are here to play and that they have certain responsibilities," he said.

London have made a promising start in the European Super League, winning three of their first five matches, but Currie is earning a reputation as a strict disciplinarian by demanding a more professional attitude.

Eric Hughes, sacked as coach of tomorrow's Wembley finalists, St Helens, in January, has a new job as coach of Second Division Leigh. Hughes succeeds Ian Lucas, who was sacked on Monday after his side had lost four of their first five matches.

The former Great Britain international, who has also coached Widnes and Rochdale Hornets, has been given a three and a half year contract. The former Workington

coach Kurt Sorensen, who was also in the running for the Leigh job, is considering an offer to take over at Barrow. The League and the BBC

have agreed a new three-year deal worth a reputed £3m for live coverage of the Challenge Cup. starting next season. The two Oldham players cited for fouls in last week's match

at Castleford have been suspended, Scott Ranson for three matches and Jason Temu for two. The Castleford centre Grant Anderson, sent off in the same game for a high tackle on Ranson, has been suspended for

three matches and fined £150. Meanwhile, Leeds' Kiwi forward George Mann has had his 🎸 three-game ban - for a late and high tackle against Oldham two weeks ago - reduced to two on appeal. But the Hull winger Leigh Deakin has failed in his appeal against an eight-match ban imposed for punching in the game against Keighley Cougars

Nathan Picchi, the Leeds loose forward, who dislocated a shoulder on his debut last Sunday, is likely to be out for the

Early chance to catch up on Sri Lanka Derek Pringle considers the new-look as a peerless pinch hitter for Eng-The start of today's round of

Benson and Hedges Cup, starting today

Benson and Hedges zonal matches sees the introduction of a new format that mirrors the one used in the recent World Cup. If the chairman of selectors. Ray Illingworth, really wants to show that he is not the cricketing fossil many suspect, the hunt for England's Sanath Javasuriya, Sri Lanka's explosive

pinch hitter, must start too. Trimmed to 50 overs per side, and with fielding restrictions in place for the first 15 overs - when only two fielders are allowed outside the 30 vard circle - the new-look competition ought to enliven tactics and, especially in the wake of Sri-Lanka's bold approach, offer fresh challenges to batsmen and bowlers alike.

By winning the World Cup, Sri Lanka showed just what can be achieved by batsmen prepared to keep taking risks. Their performance gave many the impression that this was a new form of the one-day game when in fact it has been played by England in Australia ever since 1982, and the Sunday League flirted with its charms a few seasons ago.

In fact, almost a decade before his ambition to be a selector Ian Botham carved himself a niche land, when he flayed many an opening bowler during the Perth Challenge and World Series of 1986-87. With this summer's six one-day internationals being played under the same rules, the experiments must start soon.

What the latest changes have done is to revolutionise the start of an innings, which conventionally - at least in England was used to build a solid foundation for the frenzied thrash of the final 10 overs. What the more audacious sides have done, is turn the game on its head, making exceptional scores of 270 or more seem commonplace by bookending the innings with ferocious hitting.

What Illingworth and his selectors must do is encourage batsmen like Alistair Brown and Adam Hollioke of Surrey, who play Hampshire at the Oval, to use the formidable striking skills up the order and use them for Fingland. It is a role in which Nottinghamshire's Paul Johnson has regularly excelled, and one which judging by his continued non-sewhich the selectors have been terminally unaware.

However, whether or not the same kind of scores are possi-



Worcestershire's Graeme Hick gets in some net practice at New Road before today's opening game of the season

JUST THE TICKET: a guide to what's on where for the sporting spectator

are not quite so dismissive of will see against Durham at dlesex side to face Somerset at tests to their World Cup pair Peseam bowlers as their India Chesterfield. The World Cup and Pakistan counterparts re- all-rounder missed the opening mains to be seen, although the first-class fixture at Fenner's foltempts of off-spin bowlers to keep the runs down by firing the ball at leg-stump.

London International Relegation League Cup Final Morsour Park, New Maiden, It the high pressure climax of the professional sea-son is becoming too much this future offers the amdicine finerity flootiat, fercel, contested, inter The Valley challenge Red Star Brockwell in this blue inband sporting event. Like Mar-chester Utd. Red Star are also chasing the double ... any similarity ends there. The final starts at 2pm but the entire league play a five-a-side tournament from Sam orwards-

a five-a-side trumament from Sam orwards-CRICKET: Benson and Hedges Cup. Esset v hiddleser (Chelmsford); Surrey + Hampstire (The Foster's Oval); British Investries v Gam-organ (Femer's); Kent v Somersot (Moustonet (Lancashire v Durham (Old Trafford); Leoss-tershire v Derbyshire (Leosster); Mihror Coun-tes v Warwockshire Uestrood); Notingfamshire v Scotland (Trent Bridge); Susset v Ireland Hove); Worcestershire v Youtshire (Worcester).

move; increasing a rankang Warrester.

PETANQUE: The Cassini Open Pairs Championship (inverteith Park, Edinburgh, This amount French sport not too dissimilar to common books (Tet: 0.1506 655633 for further details).

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (Mur-

Next week

POOTBALL (7.30 unless stated): Monday:
FA Carling Premiership: Leeds v Newcastle
(8.0). Tuesday: Endsteigh Insurance League
First Division. Barnsley : West Brom 17.450:
Charlton v Tranner (7.450: Luton v Port Vale
(7.45): Oldham v Stole (7.45): Reading v
Wolverhampton (7.45): Second Division.
Bradford v Swindon (7.45): Crewe v Pearborough: Walsali v Burnley (7.45): York v
Chesterfield, Third Division. Hereford v
Hartlebool. Wednesday: FA Cerling Premiership. Arsend v Leeprool. Endsleigh Insurance League First Division. Ipswich v
Huddersfield. Thursday: FA Cerling Promiership. Leeds v Tottenham (7.45): Nottingham Forest v Newcastle (7.45).
EQUESTRIANISM: Thursday: Badminton.
Horse trals ito May 5):
Rudgy LEAGUE: Fridey: Stones Super
League (two matches).

RUGBY LEAGUE: Priday: Stones Suber League from matches): CCLING: Thursday; Therates GP Tour of Lan-cashine (to May 6). RACING (Flat meetings in capitals): Mon-day; KEMPTON: Club & Tathersalis £10 (16 to 25-year-olds) £8: Seret Ring £5. (2.20). PONTERRACT; Club £12, Paddock £8: Siner Ring £3.50. (2.2-0). SOUTHWELL; AWY: Club £12: Tathersalis £6 (QAP members of

Typical Examples:

Next week

A fired-up Phillip DeFreitas ble on English pitches, which is what Derbyshire hope they

limitation to five fielders on the lowing an elbow operation but land paceman Phil Newport is lection for his country, one of leg-side, will hinder the at- is now fit to form a three- likely to miss the whole of the pronged pace attack alongside county's zonal programme behis England colleagues Devon Malcolm and Dominic Cork. England hopeful Richard Barbados.

Johnson is included in the Mid-

cause of a back injury sustained

shoulder strain.

during a pre-season tour of

Worcestershire's former Eng-

Lancashire will give fitness

Lord's after recovering from a ter Martin and Neil Fairbrother before beginning their defence of the Cup against the

Minor Counties at Old Trafford. against Yorkshire on Sunday, while Fairbrother is two games hamstring injury.

The New Zealander Chris Cairns has been included in Nottinghamshire's squad for their game against Yorkshire. even though it could stir up trouble with his national offi-

Photograph: John Potte:

Martin hurt his right shoul-der in the 40-over friendly cials. The all-rounder pulled out of New Zealand's tour of the West Indies because of a side into a comeback from his latest strain. He is keen to play as a specialist batsman.

on Easter Monday. rest of the season.

This weekend

Premier League, Belle View v Lonuon (1,35).

RACING: Plat meetings in capitals):
CARLISIE: Club £12 (0APs & under-21s £9);
Tamersalk £6 (0APs & under-21s £3) (2.10).
SANDOWN (CH4): Club £15, Junior Club £16.
- £5yrs: £13; Grandsland & Paddock £12:
Park £5 (2,0). Luddow Club £14 (accompanied materials £6): Course £5.
Course £5.
Course £5.
Course £5.
Course £5.
Course £5.
Course £5. CRICKET: Benson and Hedges Cup. Derbyshire v Durham (Chesterfield), Warwickshire v Leicess Duman Chosanni, Womensme'n Cerces-reshine (Edgostanni, Womensershine) Kontramp-Jonshine (Womenser) Birrish Universities v Nemi The Panker, Glamorgan v Esse (Cardiffi, Gouzes-fershine) i Sussex (Brasilli: Nampshare v Indiana (Southampton), Lancashine v Minor (Zurmaes (Old Traffort), Modelese v Somerser (Lord's): York-shine v Noranghamshine (Heladingley).

FOOTBALL: Endstergh Incurance League Sec-and division, Bradford City is Brendord (7,45). SNOOKER: Embassy World Championship ito May 6th, Crucible Theatre, Shetfields,

Rico, helder, MOTOR SPORT: World Superbike Champi-orship (Borungen Park, uniti Sundan), Warch British champion Carl Fogarty, defend his n-tte on home soit, (Tet 01332 810048) TENNIS LTA Sonng Saterlife (Edinburgh). Tomorrow

FORDALL: FA Carling Premiership. Astonvilla v Manchester Cit.; Blackbum v Arsenal;
Boton v Soutrampton: Liverpool v Middlesbrough, QPR v West Hart., Sheffield Wednesday v Severon; foreshies in v Chesses, wimbledon
v Coverty. Endsleigh Insurance League First
Division. Sonrists v Transree. League First
Division. Peading v Sheffield Util. Southend
v Othann, Sunderland v West Brom; Wolverhampton v Hinddensfeld Second Division.
Blockand v Westall, Boumemouth v Chesterheld: Snighton v York, Bristol City v Romeman;
Crewie V Orlend Util., Norts County v Swansea;
Peterborough - Hulf Shreessbury v Swansea;
Peterborough - Bristol Rovers, Wheitham v Burn-

ley; Wycombe v Carlsle, Taird Division.
Cartiff v Hereford: Darington v Chester, Doncaster v Wigan; Eoster v Bury; Fulham v Gitingham; Hardepool v Preston; Leyton Onent, v
Barnet; Marsfield v Colchester; Northampton
v Lincoln; Rochdale v Plymoutt; Scarborough
v Scurthero: Torquay v Cambridge Ind. GM
Vauchall Conference (nine factures). Bell's
Scottish League Premier Division. Falkiri,
v Hiberitan; Hearts v Kilmamock; Particl-v
Celoc; Rarth v Motherwell.
RACING; LEICESTER; Club £12; Tattersalls
ES; Silver Ring £4. (accompanied under-

RACING: LEICESTER: Club £12: Tattersalls £8: Silver Run £4. (accompanied under105 freel. Free racecards £2.01. RTPON:
Club £12: Tattersalls £8: Silver Ring £4:
Course £2 (accompanied under-1.86 free all enclosures) (2.05). SANDOWN (CH4)
(Mitted): Club £25; Junor Club (16 -25yrs)
£16: Grandstand & Paddock £15: Park £7
(2.15). WOLVERHAMPTON (AW): Club £15: Tattersalls £6 (OAP members of Diamond Club £41: Viewing Restaurant £25.90 including entrance and meal
(7.0). Market Rasen: Club £12; Tattersalls £8 (OAPs who are members of course's Jubilee Club £41: Silver Ring £5
(Jubilee Club OAPs £1.50) (2.10). Worcester: Members £1.50) (2.10). Worcester: Members £1.50; Tatter-salls £9.50;
Course £5 (OAPs ±2.50) (5.45).
RUGBY £46GUE Silk Cut Chellenge Cus fi-RUGBY LEAGUE: Silk Cut Chellenge Cup fi-nal (Memble): Bradford Bulls v St Helens (2.30). RUGBY UNION: Courage League (20 match-es). Herneken League (12 matches).

IN-LINE SKATING: 1996 British In-Line Skat-ing Championships (Wakefield). Britam's top skaters will all be present for this breatniak-ing exhibition of sturies and tricks.

Stolepkay Championship.
WRNDSURFING: Natural Racing Championship.
IPort Eynon, South Wales). The second round of these BWA championships run for the next two days. (Tel: 01705 468182). CYCLING: Land's Classic (North Humberside). SPEEDWAY: World Under-21 Championship British final (Swindon), Premier League, Brad-ford v Middlesbrough; Eastbourne v Sheffield.

Sunday

FOOTBALL: FA Carling Premiership: Marchester Utd v Nottingham Forest (14.0). End-sleigh Laggite First Division: Derby v Crystal Palace (3.0). Bell's Scottish League: Rangers v Aberdeen (3.0). Women's FA Cup Final (Milwall): Crydon v Liverpool (3.0).

PICK OF THE DAY

It is every cricketer's dream to play on the hallowed turf of Lord's Cncket Ground. The vast majority only have the opportunity to watch live action on the television while a few manage to visit in person. Winners of The Alliance & Lercester Gro Village Cricket Championship are giv-en the opportunity to change dreams into reality.

Teams from Scotland, Wales and tive journeys this Sunday when the first round of the Championship is played. Prospective teams will have to negotiate the small mat-cncketer at any level. ter of 650 other village teams to Competitors enjoy such treats as reach the zenith of Lord's.

The healthy state of the tournament, organised by the Cricketer and currently in its 25th anniversary year, reflects the enthusiastic vigour of the grass roots game public address, the trophy pre-that began almost 400 years ago sented by the president of MCC. in the vales of the Weeld. In the vales of the Weald.

How to get there: Telephone: 01892
740259740697 for further datase concerning

ton, then the editor of the Crick- wat round to round results by cooking the Cricketer, to Lord's to meet Aidan erer Hot Line: 0591 884518 course's Damond Club £4, accompassed under-16s freet. (2, 30). Tuesday: BATH: Club £12; Tatter-31s £8: Since Ring £1; Course £1, (2.0). NOTTINGNAM: Club £1; Jurans, £6; 21 years, £8). Tatter-side £8, Siver Ring & Paddock £6; (2, 15). ASCOT £8CC. Members £12; (Jurior Mambers £6.25 years, half

<u>18.7%</u>

£116.00

Crawley, Chairman of the National Cricket Association. At the end SUNDAY/Cricket of the meeting, Mr Crawley re-The Alliance & Leicester Giro Village Cricket Championship of two villages playing at the "home of cricket".

A list of all villages with a popula-tion of under 2,500 was compiled. Letters were then sent out to all the pubs and garages of these villages. More than 1,000 village clubs responded..

especially concerning eligible players, was agreed upon and a draw was kept to a minimum. In the first year, 1972, the clubs did not know England will all start their respect the North v South final would be held at Lord's in front of two par tisan groups of family and friends . . . a dream come true for any

a banquet the evening before the final, a night in the Regent's Park Hilton overlooking the ground, stewards in the dressing-rooms, the Brocklehurst went with EW Swan- bookers and follows, You can keep up to door

pricel, Grandstand & Puddoos ES, Salver Ring ES, 15:30: Huntingdon, Members E12, Pod-dook ES, Course Es, 15:45; Redinesdays AS-COT (BSC) as Turnstin, 12:30: Chellenthere; Club & Tatters-Ric combined E12 jurnors, 16: 24 years, ES): Foster's Enclosure E5: 15:25; Exerter' Grandstand & Paddook E9, Salver Ring

£154.08

<u>17.5%</u>

£199.32

19,567,36

£4.50 (accompanied under-16s free). (2.20). Kelser. Cub. £1.20n Sphurdays. £10weekdays: Tattersals £7 (DAPs £4, accompanied under-16s free). (54). Plampton: Members £1.2; Tattersals £8; Course £4. (2.10). Thursday: HAMILTON: Chb. £1.2; Grandstand and Poddoch £7 (£4 for OAPs, disabled & students, £10 for couples); accompanied under-16s free all enclosures. (2.10). SALISBURY: Members £12:50; Tattersalls £8; Course Enclosure £4 (accompanied under-16s free all enclosures). (2.0). WOLVERHAMPTON (AW); Cub. £15; Tattersalls £6: (OAP members of Damond Club £4); Verwing Rossburght £25,90 including; entrance and meol. (2.20). Friday: HAMILTON: 35 Tursday. (2.15). MemMARKEET (704); Cub. £14; (16 to 25-year-olds £8); Grandstand & Paddisk £10; Dis Bangor: Padrick £8; Course £4, Accompanied under-16s free all enclosures; (5.45). Newton Abbot. Tatternolls £8 50; Course £4. Accompanied under-16s free. 11 50). Soligi-field: Paddock £8 (OAP; £4; Course £2, (6.0). Next weekend

Next weekend

Next weekend

FOGBALL: Saturday, Endaletth Insurance
Lengue Second Division. Brenitord v
Boursemount Bristo Rosen v Wermber, Burnley v Sheasbury, Carifale v Bristo Chy, Cheekefeld v Notes County, Half v Bradford, Oxford
Uid v Peterhorough: Rotherman v Wrenham,
Seanses v Crowe; Seandon v Starbport, Walsail v Binghon; Josh v Guethport, Walsail v Binghon; Josh v Guethport, Walsain, Barnel v Fusham; Burv v Curdiff,
Cambridge Uid Leyton Onest: Cheeker's Museferd, Colchwater v Donatister, Gelingham's Scurborough, Hereford v Rochdole: Lincoln v,
Torquay, Plymouth v Hutbapool, Pre-ston v Ereter; Scuntharpe v Darlington, Wigan v
Norihamyton, Belf's Scottish Langue, Premilor Division, Aborden v Falleri, Cellic v
Roth, Hiberman v Partick; Nilmamool v
Ranger, Motherwell v Hearts.
Sunday: Fa Carling Promiorship (all at 4.0),

Sunday: FA Carling Premiorship (all at 4.0), Assertal v Briton; Chebza v Blackburn, Cover-ty Lendt; Everian v Actan Vila, Manchester GN v Liverpool, Muldit-strough v Manchester Urd, Newcastle v Tottenham: Nottingtom For-er's Chems's Child Passers': Statiognoston. Winderdor, West Harn's Streeted Winderschip
RACING: Strutings, INDMMARKET (CH4); Cho
£75(16 to 25-year-olds £10), Chindyland &
Padrock £12 (16 to 25-year-olds £5); Swer
Ring £5, (2.0), TMRSR: Club £12; Tattersals;
£8 (OAPs £4); Formly Enclosure £3 (OAP-,
£1.50). Accompanied under-16s tree, (2.20).
Haydock (BBC); County Stand £15; Tattersals;
£9; Newton Stand £4 (OAPs half-price in Tattensals and Newton Stand). (2.0). Hereford: Cub £12: Tattersals £9; course enclosure £5, (2.20). Nexham: Cub £9; Addocs £6, ((AP), £4). (6.0). Uttoneter: Cub £15 ((AP), £12). Tattersals £10 ((AP) £7); Course £3, (2.40). Warnick: Cub £12 (16 to 24-year-olds £5). Tattersals £3; Course £5, (5.45). Sundey: NEWMARKET ((CH4) Cub £23 (16 to 25-year-olds £5). olds £10): Grandstand & Paddock £12 · 16 to 25 year-olds £5). Silver Ring £5 · (2.0°, \$41-isbury: 35 Thursday, (2.15). RUGBY UNION: Saturday: Pilkington Cup final (Twickennam), Lancyter v Bath, Swalec Cup Final (Cardil), Neath v Pontyphold.

IUGBY LEAGUE: Stones Supor League forkington v Hailax (6 G), TENNIS: Setunday: Davis Cup. Euro Amoun mone group two (David Uovi Centre), GB 1 Stoveno; (Newcamber 174 Spring Satellite (Queens, 100 ft). Missicanter LTA Sonne Satolite (Queens, 100.1).
CRICKET Saminday, Britannic Assurance
County Championship reside markers Orion
Univ. Hants (The Ports); Cambridge Unit, Marsatolism: Fermini Satolism; Tourist March
Duchess of Norfold 11 India (Tourist Canterbury); East Leafue, Karlis Lancactare (Canterbury); Debuggine v Leuestershire (DestroDuchom Morraymoreshim (DestroLahom Morraymoreshim (DestroGamoryan v Yorkshire (Cantif); Middlesse,
Clausestershire (Lords); Noting-Jamestine
Sunce: (Trent Bridge), Somerset v Sunce;
Chauthon; Womostershim v Essee (Womester).

MOTOR RECINE: Satinface Protein Fermini Times.

MOTOR RACING: Saturday: Prich Formula Trans Champership (Donneston) Auto Tracer PAC British Touring Car Champeorship (Tonchum Brich Touring Car Champership (Thrushum BOMNG, Sathraday 1/30) Inter-Continential Light-Middleworpht Time (Certistrook Leisung Certin, Dagenham). Adnar Dodson (sangan, holder) v. Javen Custillego (Spam). Besterrer Champerships (Wentle), Anna In Mar, St., The high-light of the Baskelbail calender starts here: e.g. tileams play a best of three series in the disastering. Can the all conquering london Tomor, be heaten? Tickett 56:435 (Tel: 0181-900 1234).

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The world No 1 tennis player. Pete Sam-pras, heads the early entries list for this year's Stella Artors Grass Court Championships, to be held at the Queen's Club purchage, to be need at the Queen's Club London from 10 to 18 June. These championships are usually used as a warm-up for the following Grand Slam tournament at Wimbledon, While the Stella Arrois Championships offers players valuable grass-count expenience, it also gives spectators the opportunity to watch the world's top players in first-rate competition without a lot of the hassle that accompanies a visit to Wimbledon. The measure of this tournament

the Stella Artors Championships offers

bledon. The measure of this tournament is illustrated by the quality of past winners and the standard of the compettors who flock to Queen's Club. This year Pees Sampras is joined by a strong field of entries including six former Stella Arios champions and, entered for the first time, the clay court specialist and world No 2, Thomas Muster. The previous title holders include Bons Becker, Wayne Ferreira and Stefan Edberg, Completing early entries for the £456,656 champions price are Goran Ivanseur and the British into of Greg Rusedskii, Tim Henman and Jeremy Bates.

The public appeal of the Stella Artols Championship remains high with only a few seats remaining for the 5,900 capacity centre court. Ticket prices range from £9,543 for the finals on Sunday. Because of increasing demand, the ca-pacity of the third show court has been expanded to approximately 650 seats amounting to almost 1,700 unre-served seats on outside courts for hyers of ground admission tickets (

The Stella Artics Raincheck 51.

The Stella Artics Raincheck 51.

See in place this year Lart year in 285 of 5250,000 was paid out in raincheck claims tollowing the semi-final day wash-out.

For further information call the Stella Artics Championships Gredit Card Hodine: 0171.

433 1414 or call 0171-385 3421 for general information. Details of forthcoming events with

information on tickets and venues

should be sent to: The Sports

Desk, The Independent, 1 Cana-

da Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL Fax: 0171 293 2894. Compiled by Alister Morgan

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